

WARREN
MAGAZINE



EERIE
#57

JUNE 1974

ALL NEW STORIES AND ART! PLUS **COLOR!**

EERIE

\$4.00
\$3.75
PDC

HUNTER
THE DEMON KILLER
AND
THE BLOOD
PRINCESS
FACE DEATH
IN A
TERROR-TRAPPED
CASTLE
OF
HORRORS!



AND INTRODUCING,
THE HACKER!
SINISTER WIELDER
OF THE DEADLY
CLEAVER!
AND
CHILD!
THE MONSTER
MADE FROM
CORPSES OF
DEAD ANIMALS!



AH, I SEE YOU'VE
COME FOR A DOSE
OF COUSIN EERIE'S
**BADTIME
STORIES!**

THIS ISSUE,
I'VE GOT **SIX MONSTROUS
TALES OF MADNESS!** THEY
FEATURE **HUNTER, CHILD,
DR. ARCHAELUS, IT AND
THE HACKER!**

AND MY
FIRST STORY
IS ABOUT AN
OLD-FASHIONED
SPOOK!

WRIGHTSON



OUR COVER
Hunter, vengeance heavy on his mind, is about to face the murderous demon Ofphal for a battle to the death. This month's rendering of the final Hunter adventure is by Ken Kelly.

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EERIE NO. 57 PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT MAY, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016, TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR \$10.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$12.00.

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EERIE®

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6 THE EERIE EYE A biography of the most prolific *Martin Salvador* is this EERIE's feature presentation. In addition to this, we've our regular fanzine reviews, and an in-depth preview of this issue's stories.

7 SPOOK: STRIDESPIDER ROT Set in Louisiana Bayou country, this tale of voodoo stars the dead man known as *Spook*. His mission on earth is to free all enslaved brethren and deliver justice unto man.

17 HUNTER: DEMON-KILLER The concluding chapter of our epic science fiction adventure. *Hunter* and *Schreck* break from behind bars, and the demon killer enters into a death-battle with his enemy *Ofphal*!

25 HIDE FROM THE HACKER In the dreary London night-fog he strikes, his vile blade catching a glint of moonlight. What is the incredible identity of this maniac who brutally kills only *police officers*?

35 CHILD When his wife died, the old scientist was left alone in the world. But the grief-stricken inventor had an idea: create a young boy from parts of dead animals. And the result is a creature known as *Child*!

43 IT: TERROR OF FOLEY The fetid fiend from hell rises once more from his moldering grave. As protector of *Foley* mansion, *It* must defend the old home from a gang of thieves who learn of its wealth.

52 DR. ARCHAEOUS: A SWITCH Inspector Sanford finally unravels the entirely bizarre pattern behind the revenge of *Archaeus*. Can the policeman intercept the madman... before he kills juror no.4?

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"Regular features give EERIE depth and realism."

It's my opinion that EERIE has the highest quality to be found in any horror magazine on the stands today.

Overall, the Warren group is the best in the industry, having the finest editors, artists, and writers. And EERIE, with its continuing character format, is the single best book from that group.

Regular features allow greater emphasis to be placed on the personalities of the characters, giving a story greater depth and realism, whereas a single story has to maintain the plot as a focal point, and therefore they appear to be flat and without dimension.

Specifically, I'll cite the "Hunter" strip. Although it's odd, a strange mixture of sci-fi and fantasy, this also makes it a unique piece of literature. It's refreshing to see a comic character who has a psyche and not just a bulging bicep.

And while I'm discussing "Hunter," I'd like to toss a few kudos in the direction of Paul Neary's artwork. Warren has scored a coup in discovering a talent that is sure to become a byword among comics fans.

MARC HUNTER
Jackson, Miss.



Dr. Archaeus plots the ghastly murder of a juror. Only a handful of readers have deciphered the madman's deathly pattern, which has the police baffled.

I've been a follower of your magazine for only one year. But I do appreciate good art, and I think you've got some of the best.

But see if you can get more artwork from a couple of the following guys: Jeff Jones, Frank Frazetta, Esteban Maroto, Richard Corben, and Ramon Torrents.

**MARK ALFRED and
CAMEY VILAR**
no address given

What's all this about "Dark Shadows," science fiction magazines, super-heroes, and EERIE not being a good magazine? To all who claim this, I say if you don't dig EERIE, you can dig your grave! EERIE has class.

Cuz, you know what horror really means. EERIE is fantastic!

J.R. KISER
Spindale, N.C.

Thank you, m'boy! Glad to hear I've still got a friend!

Listen, 'cuz. You don't have to get upright about all that 'extra baggage' you carry around up front. Remember: Fat people are supposed to be jolly people!

**NO NAME OR
ADDRESS GIVEN**

Sure, but would you buy a horror mag called JOLLY?

I must congratulate you on your successful effort to launch an all-series magazine.

I'd like to make a few suggestions, if I may. First, why not change the name of the magazine to WARREN ALL-SERIAL Magazine, with Cousin Eerie as the host? That would make the format seem more relevant.

Also, bring back "Dax" illustrated by Esteban Maroto. And let "Dracula" stay dead! He's had too many incarnations of late; in books, film, and other magazines. And definitely revive "Marvin, the Dead Thing."

As for your current characters, the best is "Schreck." You obviously got the idea from the movie "The Omega Man." This one gets a one hundred percent rating.

"Dr. Archaeus" is second best. Here you've come close to copying another movie character, "Dr. Phibes." Even Archaeus' resemblance to Vincent Price is incredible. And good.

"Fathom Haunt" was good, a couple of issues back. It's in the Cthulhu-like style of H.P. Lovecraft.

"Hunter" is typical sci-fi tripe. Kill off "Hunter" in favor of the earlier mentioned serials.

Final suggestion: Introduce a series with a witch or a coven of witches as the central character(s), focusing on the endless battles between witches and witch hunters.

CARL NICASTRO
Pottsville, Pa.

I just bought EERIE #55 and, as far as I'm concerned, it was awful! Oh, the artwork and writing were okay. It's just that the concept of the magazine is shot to pieces.

I'm not in favor of the continuing series idea. Although I think "Schreck" and "Hunter" were pretty good, "Dr. Archaeus" was terrible.

Also, if I miss one issue, it takes the enjoyment out of the series. And not everyone can afford to buy every issue.

CRAIG McPHERSON
Quebec, Canada

I know you usually run letters that say something of a critical nature, but I have only one thing to say. I buy EERIE and the rest of the Warren magazines because I think they are the best!

ERIC BERMUDEZ
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Thanks, Eric! After a rough-and-tumble letters page, words like that are a great consolation.

After reading EERIE #55, I came to the following conclusions.

First of all, "Hunter" was the best story in the issue. The detail in Paul Neary's art was utterly fantastic. And my compliments to Budd Lewis for his intelligent storyline. Both Neary and Lewis really outdid themselves with this one.

"Schreck" was also good, and it must have taken a lot of imagination to put something as wild as that together. And while the art was above your average, it was not Vincente Alcazar's best.

"Dr. Archaeus" was okay, but it really isn't right for EERIE. I think it belongs in VAMPPIRELLA. I'm all for letting him have his revenge, but don't keep it up for too long.

As for "The Spirit," the magazine would be better off without him.

EDDIE BARNHART
Sebring, Fla.

Your wish is our command. "The Spirit" is out of EERIE and in the pages of his own book. As for keeping Archaeus going, we've got a surprise in the good doctor's future. Watch for it!

I've waited long enough! I've been collecting EERIE since issue #50, and I'm ready to give up.

Where's "Dracula?" I've waited to see the series that all of your readers raved about. What happened? Did he get mugged by an undertaker? Or did he get lock-jaw on the job?

DAVID ANDREAS
Clinton, Md.

Well, Dave, it's none of the above. Quite literally, the good Count has bitten the dust.

When I received my subscription issue of EERIE #55, I thought it would be great. And it was, but only partially so.

"Schreck" and "The Spirit" weren't very good. They were confusing. And the art on "Schreck" seemed to change between the two parts.

Better than these was "Hunter" and "Doctor Archaeus." Both were excellent in both art and story.

But I really don't like these continuing series you're giving us. I'd rather have different adventures in every issue.

KENT KISER
McLean, Va.

And the series/no-series debate rages on! What will be the eventual outcome is anybody's guess.

"EERIE is fang-tastic!"

To all those who keep yammering for EERIE to return to its old format of one-shot trick ending stories, let them go to CREEPY. Things in that magazine are as they have always been: boring, dull, shallow, and predictable.

Although, I must say that I am glad the godawful "Werewolf" series has run its course. And now I find "The Mummy" missing as well. I had hoped for a clash between these two titans, perhaps drawn by Jaime Brocal.

One thing bothered me, though. In issue #55, you ran an apologetic editorial about rising prices. So far, fine. But in the process, you stooped to take some absolutely unwarranted, vicious, cheap, digs at your competition.

Cut that out right now!

It is demeaning, ludicrous, and ill-mannered to take such badly-veiled pot-shots at a team of talented and dedicated professionals. Your competitor's black and white magazines are better drawn, and five-times as well-written as Warren books. Not to mention that they're cheaper, have better covers, feature more intelligent fan commentary in their letters pages, have classier editorial content, and have writers that can run rings around any of your writers.

I could dare you to print this, or pull some such moronic stunt. But I just wanted you to know how I felt.

I liked "Schreck," but I was glad to see it go. It was good to see "The Spirit," and I hope he keeps his niche in EERIE as well as in his own magazine.

As for "Hunter," Paul Neary is a great artist. But he's a poor storyteller. And it was a relief to see the talented Budd Lewis replace Rich Margopoulos. Lewis' writing better complements Neary's style of rendering.

"Dr. Archaeus" (or: The Murder of the Month Club) is the worst of all your editorial boobies. Isidro Mones and Gerry Boudreau just can't hold this one together.

DAVID CHARLES LONEY
Alliance, Ohio

Well, Dave, you've made some passionate pleas on behalf of the competition. We'd like to give you our side of the story.

The field of black and white magazines of comic art is one we nurtured and developed over the years. And we cannot but take a dim view of a company that leaps into the field and saturates the market, looking to push us off the stands. So if we appear "vicious," understand that it is due to just provocation.

I just finished reading your latest issue, and decided to write concerning the controversy over your continuing series.

In my opinion, anyone who would complain about some really good storylines must have been infected with moon radiation. And that is that!

Oh, and by the way. Do not start a science fiction magazine. Quite frankly, I could not afford it.

D.M. COLLINS
North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

I believe that you guys up at Warren deserve a large round of applause for the great work you do. I have been collecting your magazine for two years, and I have yet to read one and not like it.

"Hunter" is one of the best things I've seen you do. I definitely hope you will continue this series. And Ken Kelly's cover painting of Hunter on EERIE #55 was fantastic.

To tell the truth, I get sick of hearing people complain about your efforts. I think if they don't like what you do, they should stop reading the magazines.

LLOYD COGBILL
Columbia, S.C.

Honestly, Lloyd, I enjoy letters that feature honest, constructive criticism. We're not perfect, and the only way to improve is through reader commentary.

First of all, I'd like to say how much I like your new series. But then, I liked "Dax The Warrior," and look where he is now.

EERIE's latest issue was unbelievably good. To start with, Ken Kelly's cover was beautiful. And you went three-for-four on the stories.

The one story I really did not like was "Dr. Archaeus." Get rid of him and give the space to "Hunter." As a matter of fact, I would like to see just three stories per issue: "Schreck," "Hunter," and "The Spirit." Forget "The Mummy" and "The Werewolf."

And in closing, I'd like to give my strong support to a Warren science fiction magazine.

JAMES M. REASONER
Azle, Tex.

It figures that the series you liked the best have come to rousing conclusions. Well, don't sweat it Jim. We've got some good new series on the drawing board, and we hope you'll like 'em. We promise you this: you've never seen anything like them!



Hunter battles a horde of mutated demons, in this exciting pose that was EERIE #55's cover. Ken Kelly's colorful painting drew many words of praise.

EERIE #55 stunk!

First off, the cover was very misleading. Hunter didn't slay his father, and Shreck didn't meet up with any werewolves.

Speaking of Hunter, his storyline is becoming boring. Let's have a little more plot and a little less emotion.

Now for some closing advice: Go on a diet, Cuz. If you get much over 72 pages, I won't be able to afford you anymore.

DENTON ELLIOTT
Independence, Kan.

Sorry, Denton. I just found out that fat people are jolly people!

You know, with all this talk about a new Warren magazine, you'd think that someone would suggest you revive BLAZING COMBAT.

With the talented artists and writers you have now, it would be just as great as it was the first time around.

KEVIN ALTIERI
Southington, Conn.

Don't we have enough to discuss on these pages without tossing another hat into the ring? It's a good idea, Kevin, but we've learned that the public wants horror that is imagined rather than real.

EERIE'S A CREEPY LITTLE GUY! BUT LOVEABLE AS ALL HECK!

Believe it or not, old Cuz' is sensitive about all that extra weight! He'd like to hear from some sympathetic readers! Give Cousin EERIE a shoulder to cry on. Write:

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016



THE EERIE EYE

A BEASTLY BIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN SALVADOR COMICDOM'S DEVILISH DRAFTSMAN



soming artist from his creation. After fulfilling his martial duties, Martin returned to the drawing board.

His comeback was an impressive one. He was given the Adventures of Robin Hood to illustrate, and added to that Dick Daring, war stories, Iron Man (for Boys' World Magazine), and the Eagle. One of his current favorites is The Saint, on which he alternates with his Warren Publishing assignments.

Although Martin much enjoys the genre of fantasy, he does have a particular favorite. "I prefer drawing subjects that are based on history... especially stories of the Wild West."

And what does he look for in the work of his fellow artists? "I chiefly admire illustrators whose personalities come through in their work."

As for his own professional guidelines, Martin notes, "I try to make my stories as close to reality as possible."

It is few men who are able to make a childhood hobby their life's work. Martin Salvador is such a man. And what's more, he's one of the best!



A gruesome goody for the grave-robbing Ghouls. Yanus and Gabi plunder the dead in search of booty. Martin Salvador treat from CREEPY #61.

SPOOK, HUNTER, THE HACKER, CHILD, IT AND DR. ARCHAEOUS SHARE THE SPOTLIGHT IN THIS EERIE ISSUE!

Zombies, demons, lunatics and killers! These are only a few of the threats our monstrous heroes and heroic monsters must combat in this issue of EERIE. We've some new characters long-promised and finally here. And we've some old friends, returning for yet another appearance.

"IT" comes slithering from the grave to upend a threat on the treasure-laden Foley Mansion.

"Dr. Archaeus" seeks to add another of his enemies to a long-list of victims, while "Hunter" looks to destroy only one: the vicious Ophal. The Hunter/Ophal showdown, and the devastating conclusion of this series, is one you will remember for many a day.

New in the EERIE line-up are "Spook," "Child," and "The Hacker." "Spook" is the story of a dead man in 19th Century America, who seeks to free his enslaved brethren through voodoo and the occult.

"Child" is a man-made freak, a living being made from parts of dead animals. His hulking body houses the brain of a child... a very special child.

And "The Hacker?" The name says it all. "The Hacker" travels his gruesome way, severing heads from bodies. His odyssey and identity are both strange and incredible. His story is unique in the annals of horror.

Next issue, a brand new super star joins the EERIE line-up. He's strange, he's different, and he was created by the multi-talents of Bill DuBay and Paul Neary. We call him "Exterminator One." We think you'll call him unique and exciting. Be here for his dramatic debut. And we'll have a host of other EERIE delights awaiting you in the same issue.

FANZINE REVIEWS

FANZINES are amateur publications produced by comic book fans, geared to an audience with a similar interest in comics. They contain a diversity of material, from historical articles on comics of the past, to discussions of current comics and news of comics yet to come! Fanzines are available only by MAIL, direct from their publishers. We think you'll enjoy reading some of the better examples from the present fanzine market.

LE BEAVER
17 Holly Road
Hampstead 254
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
25¢

The issue we have here was the special summer edition, available for 60¢. And it's a lot of fun.

Evidently, much hard work and long hours were put into this voluminous epic-fanzine.

There are 175 pages in this diverse and imaginative book. Everything from comic books to motion pictures to cartoon animation is discussed. And there is much wild and interesting art herein.

Particularly impressive is a wealth of STAR TREK and classic cartoon animation information dug up by the magazine's editorial staff.

About the only complaint one might rightfully lodge against this effort is a lack of concern over the extreme low-quality reproduction of the book.

Yet, despite this drawback, LE BEAVER is an admirable work.

EXOTIC FANTASY
260 Garth Rd. Apt. 7A3
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583
35¢

This is an average comics fanzine. The artwork is good, but not great; the stories are diverting, but not especially well-written. And the package is tight, but hardly impressive.

The intent of Publisher Paul LeGrazie, Jr., seems to have been to create a fanzine with concepts that are relatively untold and novel. The stories in his magazine are different, but their potential is unrealized.

EXOTIC FANTASY covers the spectrum from science fiction to barbaric tales of savage content, to mythology. Had Mr. LeGrazie not covered so much territory and chosen to concentrate on one of these aspects of fantasy, the result would have been far more satisfying.

There are some promising artists herein, and for the price, you can't go wrong.

**THE COMIC
CRUSADER**
Martin Greim
Box 132,
Dedham, Mass. 02026
75¢

Here is an excellent fanzine with more than just news and previews of upcoming comics. In-depth studies are prevalent throughout, and these are accompanied by fine, strong artwork.

Issue #15 features a well-written history of Captain Marvel, interviews with artists Dave Cockrum and Kurt Schaffenberger, and a look at the career of the late Bill Everett, one of the comic art greats.

There is also an interesting eight page original story by Steve Ditko. It's a highly opinionated tale, but one surely worth reading.

Editor Martin Greim's package is a highly professional one, with a full-color cover and excellent quality art reproduction. Well worth the price.

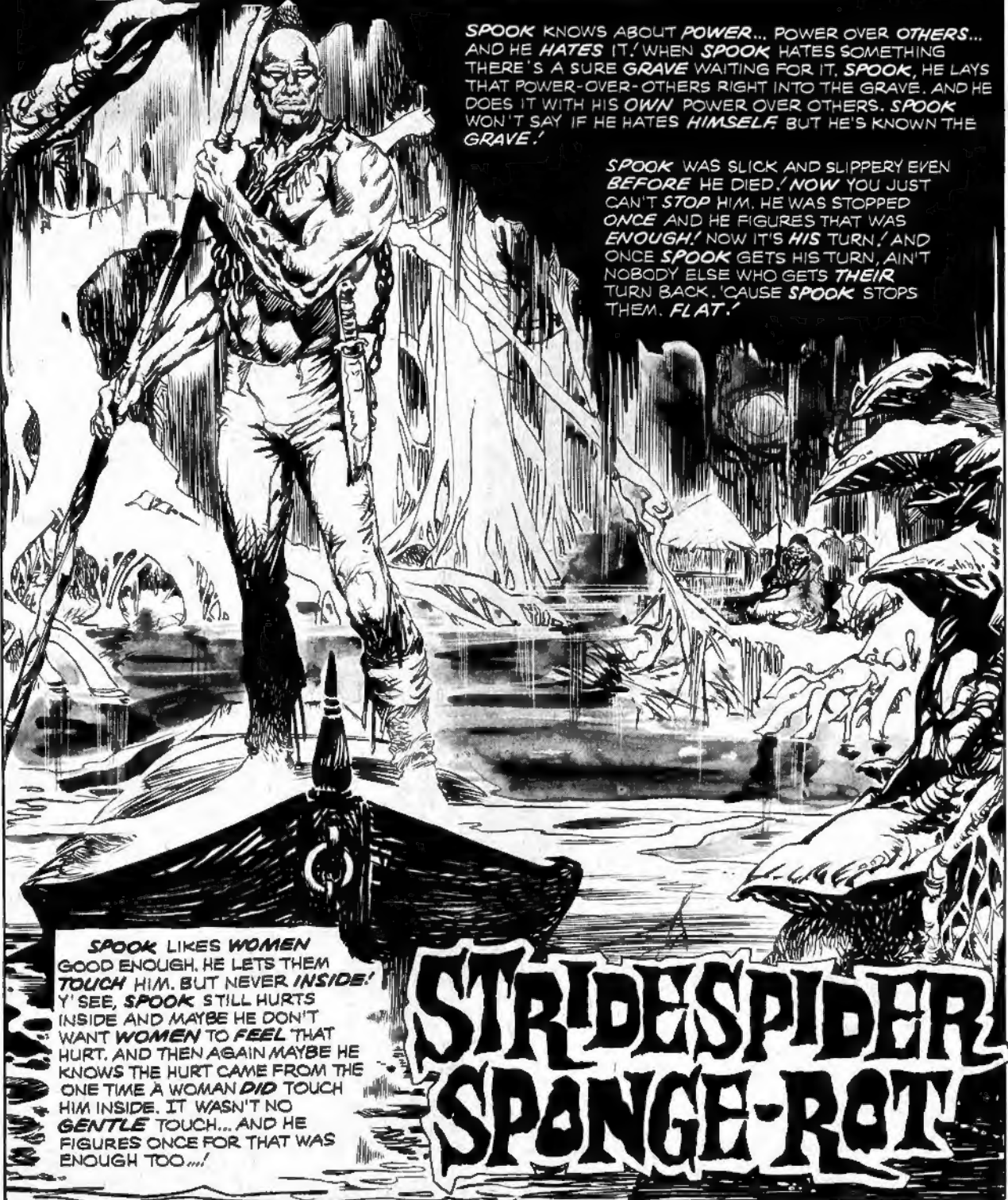
THE SPOOK

THE SPOOK... HE LIKES MIDNIGHT BEST, CAUSE SOME SAY THAT'S WHEN HE WAS BORN. AND OTHERS SAY THAT'S WHEN HE DIED. BUT MIDNIGHT SUITS SPOOK JUST FINE. HE SEES BEST THEN.

SPOOK DON'T TALK MUCH. BUT WHAT HE COULD TELL WOULD SHUT ALL OTHER MOUTHS FOR A LONG TIME. SINCE SPOOK IS TOO BUSY DOING, WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ALL THE NOISE FROM THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY DONE. BUT WE PUT UP WITH IT JUST FINE. BESIDES, THE SPOOK WILL GET AROUND TO DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT SOON ENOUGH.

SPOOK KNOWS ABOUT POWER... POWER OVER OTHERS... AND HE HATES IT. WHEN SPOOK HATES SOMETHING THERE'S A SURE GRAVE WAITING FOR IT. SPOOK, HE LAYS THAT POWER-OVER-OTHERS RIGHT INTO THE GRAVE. AND HE DOES IT WITH HIS OWN POWER OVER OTHERS. SPOOK WON'T SAY IF HE HATES HIMSELF, BUT HE'S KNOWN THE GRAVE.

SPOOK WAS SLICK AND SLIPPERY EVEN BEFORE HE DIED. NOW YOU JUST CAN'T STOP HIM. HE WAS STOPPED ONCE AND HE FIGURES THAT WAS ENOUGH. NOW IT'S HIS TURN. AND ONCE SPOOK GETS HIS TURN, AIN'T NOBODY ELSE WHO GETS THEIR TURN BACK. 'CAUSE SPOOK STOPS THEM. FLAT.



SPOOK LIKES WOMEN GOOD ENOUGH. HE LETS THEM TOUCH HIM. BUT NEVER INSIDE. Y' SEE, SPOOK STILL HURTS INSIDE AND MAYBE HE DON'T WANT WOMEN TO FEEL THAT HURT. AND THEN AGAIN MAYBE HE KNOWS THE HURT CAME FROM THE ONE TIME A WOMAN DID TOUCH HIM INSIDE. IT WASN'T NO GENTLE TOUCH... AND HE FIGURES ONCE FOR THAT WAS ENOUGH TOO...

STRIDESPIDER SPONGE-ROT

IT WAS YEARS AGO WHEN **SPOOK** HAD KNOWN **LOVE**. HER NAME WAS **SARENA**. AND HER BEAUTY WAS PARALLELED ONLY BY HER LEERING **EVIL**. THE WOMAN IS NOW OLD, HER FLESH NOT TOUCHED BY THE **GRAVE** THAT PRESERVES THE **SPOOK**. HER BEAUTY IS GONE... BUT HER **EVIL** IS GREATER THAN EVER!



SHE IS A **RITUALIST**... A HIGH **PRIESTESS** OF THE DARK **VOODOO** RITES. HER BARE FEET SILENTLY PAD FORWARD WITH THE FLUID AND GRACE OF A STALKING ANIMAL, IRREVERENTLY TRODDING THE **GRAVES** IN HER DIRECT PATH...

SHE DEFILES THESE MUTE GRAVES, NOT IN THE **CONVENTIONAL** MANNER...

...FOR SHE **PAUSES** AT EACH, PLACING HER FOOT **GENTLY** UPON THEM, PENETRATING THE EARTH WITH LINGUIDLY QUESTING TOES... SQUIRMING **DEEPER**, AS IF TO CARESS THE VERY **SOULS** OF THESE GRAVES... AND A SUBTLE **TREMOR** COURSES THROUGH HER BODY.

AND, AS THOUGH BY SOME MYSTIC **TRANSCERENCE**, HER SMOLDERING **BEAUTY** AND HER **YOUTH** RETURN TO HER WITH EACH PASSED GRAVE... UNTIL, REACHING THE SIMMERING FIRE, SHE **GLOWS** WITH A VIBRANCY TRANSCENDING NORMAL RESOURCES.

EXPECTANCY HOVERS IN THE AIR LIKE A DARKLING CLOUD GATHERING THE FURY OF STORM. THE CREOLE WOMAN MAKES A SLIGHT, IMPATIENT GESTURE... AND THE DRUMS **INTENSIFY** IN RESPONSE!

HER CARRIAGE IS REGALLY IMPERIOUS AND HER MANNER HAUGHTY... ALMOST **CONTEMPTUOUS** IN ITS UTTER DISRESPECT FOR THESE MOUNDED RESTING PLACES OF THE **DEAD**...

SHE HALTS BEFORE THE FIRE, HER BODY FLEXED RIGID, A STATUE OF VIVID PAGAN **WANTONNESS**... AND THE DANCERS **CEASE** THEIR FRENZY. THE DRUMS SUBSIDE TO MURMURING **THROBS**!

SHE BEGINS HER WALK, A WALK OF PROUD **DEFIANCE** WHICH CIRCUMSCRIBES THE SHUDDERING FIRE... A SLOW STRUTTING WALK OF EROTICALLY SUBDUED CADENCE. HER HEAD IS TILTED UP, LIPS TIGHTLY POUTING, AND HER HIPS SWAY **IMPOSSIBLY** TO THE EMPHATIC TEMPO...



RIDGED MUSCLES RIPPLE UNDER THE TAUT SKIN OF HER BELLY AS SHE WRITHES IN A SINUOUS CHOREOGRAPHY OF **LUST**. HER BREASTS **HEAVE** TO EACH CALCULATED BEAT OF THE DRUM...!

HER LIPS ARE TAINTED WITH A SMILE OF LUBRICIOUS GLEE... **LEWD GLEE**...

...A GLEE WHICH ENDURES LONG MOMENTS AS THE WOMAN'S LITHE BODY **SHUDDERS** SPASMODICALLY, AND HER DANCE BECOMES AN UNRESTRAINED DISPLAY OF RANDOM **FURY**, FLAILING ARMS AND LURCHING **FRENZY**...!

AND THEN A **SNAKE** IS HURLED TOWARD HER **BERSERK** FORM...!

THE WOMAN **WELCOMES** THE SERPENT, SYMBOLIC OF **DHAMBALLA, THE SNAKE SPIRIT**...! SHE ALLOWS ITS TWINING LENGTH TO EMBRACE THE SINEWS OF HER ARM...!

AND STILL THE CONGREGATED VOODOOISTS GAPE IN **AWESOME** AT THE PERVERSED **GLORY** OF HER DANCE... AT HER SABLE SKIN GLAZED MOLTEN BY THE **FLAMES**...!

THE SERPENT, MOST POWERFUL OF THE **LOA**... THE VOODOO **SPIRITS**... TRAVELS DOWN THE LENGTH OF THE PRIESTESS' ARM... COILS HER BODY WITH SLITHERING CAresses...

...AND IT IS THEN THAT A BREATHELESS GASP, A LOW **MOAN**, AND QUICKENING SOBS OF FOUL **ECSTASY** ISSUE FROM THE SULTRY DANCER'S FLACCID LIPS.



A RESILIENT POLE OF SAPLING SINKS DEEPLY INTO UNSEEN, YIELDING **MUCK**... SMOOTHLY PROPELLING A MODEST SKIFF FORWARD...!

UPON THE GLIDING CRAFT STANDS A LEANLY MUSCLED **MAN**... A MAN WITH A MISSION. AND **MEMORIES**...



...MEMORIES OF SLEEP HARSHLY JANGLED
BY A SHRILL, STRIDENT VOICE...



...A VOICE WRAPPED IN SIBILANT
URGENCY... A VOICE BELONGING TO
JEESALA, A HIDEOUS OLD CRONE...!

...A MAD WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO
BE THE PURVEYOR OF INFINITE
SPIRITUAL WISDOM.

IT IS NO BUSINESS OF MINE,
DEAD MAN, BUT IT MIGHT
INTEREST YOU THAT THE
SPIRITS OF THE DEAD
REPOSE IN RESTLESS
GRAVES THIS NIGHT.

EXPLAIN
YOURSELF,
OLD
WOMAN.



THERE IS A
WOMAN WHO
VAINLY PRETENDS
TO THE STATURE
OF A VOODOO
PRIESTESS. IN
TRUTH SHE IS A
PETTY DABBLER
IN THE DARK
FORCES.

BUT KNOW
THAT SHE DOES
WIELD POWER,
DEAD MAN. SHE
KNOWS THE
GRIS-GRIS, THE
FETISHES, THE
RITUALS...
PRIMITIVE
AS THEY BE.

SHE IS ARMED
WITH AMBITION
AND WRATH. HER
WRATH IS ONE YOU
HAVE FELT YOURSELF,
DEAD MAN... A
HATRED FOR THE
WHITES WHO
ENSLAVE BLACKS...!

AND HER AMBITION
IS POWER... THE
POWER TO VENT
HER WRATH, TO
EXERCISE HER
HATRED.

SHE HAS TRIED
TO FOMENT REBELLION AMONG THE
ENSLAVED ONES. BUT THEY ARE
COMPLACENT, AND WILL NOT FOLLOW
HER PATH OF VIOLENT REVOLT.

BUT SHE IS A DETERMINED WOMAN
AND HAS APPEALED TO THE RITES OF
VOODOO, THAT SHE MAY EXERT INFLUENCE
AND POWER OVER THE DEAD.



EVEN NOW SHE PREPARES THE RITE, CONSORTING WITH **DHAMBALLA** TO RESURRECT THE DEAD...

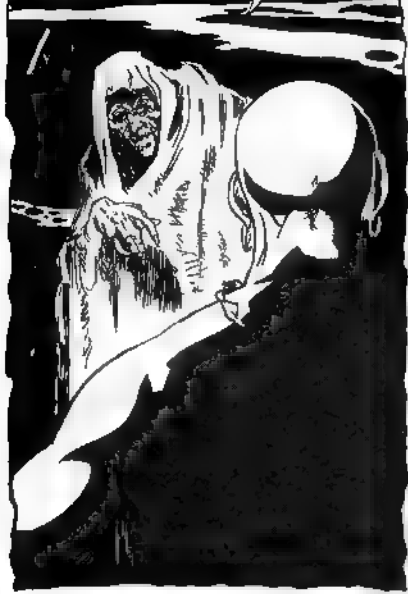
... A **HOST** OF THE **DEAD** WHICH SHE WILL LEAD INTO A MISSION OF **SLAUGHTER**. AND HER MACHINATIONS DO NOT STOP THERE, DEAD MAN...! SHE PLANS TO FORCE HER ZOMBIES TO **MURDER BLACK SLAVES** WHO WOULD NOT FOLLOW HER...!

AYE ... SHE SEEKS TO SEND **ALL** THE **BLACKS** TO DEATH, THAT SHE MY LATER **RAISE** THEM FROM THE DEAD AS A VAST **ARMY** OF ZOMBIES UNDER **HER** COMMAND ALONE...!

WITH THIS **ARMY** SHE INTENDS TO **MASSACRE** THE **WHITES** SHE SO FERVENTLY **DETESTS**...

SO YOU SEE, DEAD MAN, WHILE SHE CLAIMS TO HATE THE **WHITES** FOR ENSLAVING THE **BLACKS**...

... IN TRUTH, SHE **HERSELF** WOULD ENSLAVE THE **BLACKS**... IN LOYAL **DEATH**, AS HER MINDLESS, SOUL-LESS **ZOMBIES**.



I **THOUGHT** YOU WOULD DESIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER, DEAD MAN, AND ONCE INFORMED, **ACT** UPON THE KNOWLEDGE...!

NOW THAT I HAVE **APPRISED** YOU, IT IS HOPED THAT YOU WILL **REMEMBER**... AND **RETURN** THE FAVOR IN DUE TIME...!



THE MAN REMEMBERS THAT HE HAD NOT **ANSWERED**... AND HERE HIS MEMORIES **END**...!

HIS CONCENTRATION IS **BROKEN** BY THE REMOTE THUNDER OF RITUAL **DRUMS**...!



HE KNOWS THE **VOODOO GRAVEYARD** IS **NEAR**.

A SLICK GLOSS OF PERSPIRATION COVERS THE WOMAN'S BODY SHE PROSTRATES HERSELF UPON THE EARTH, TWISTING AND WRITHING IN THE THROES OF DESPERATE, INNER **PASSION**.

HER BODY **CHURNS** VIOLENTLY... **SPASMS** RIPPLE THROUGH HER CONTORTING FORM...

...AND THE DRUMS SCALE THE CRESCENDO OF **MADNESS** AS SHE **UNITES** WITH HER DEMON LOVER, **DHAMBALLA**... WHOSE INTANGIBLE PRESENCE IS HINTED ONLY BY THE SYMBOLIC **SERPENT** COILING HER FEVER-THRASHED BODY...



IN HELL-LICKED **DEMENTIA** THE SCENE IS PLAYED... HER FLESH OFFERED IN UNHOLY SUBMISSION TO THE **SERPENT-SPIRIT**, AND AS IT IS **POSSESSED** A LIVID MASK OF EXCRUCIATING BLISS SEIZES HER FACE...

...UNTIL SHE SHRIEKS IN ECSTATIC **AGONY**.

AAAAARGGGHHH! HHH!



A SHRIEK WHICH CHARGES THE AIR WITH AWAKENED **SORCERY**.

A RAW-THROATED SHRIEK WHICH ELICITS THE ABRUPT DISPLACEMENT OF SOIL AND CAUSES GNAWED HANDS TO BURST FREE OF SMOTHERING GRAVES...

...THE GROPING HANDS OF CORPSES...



...FOLLOWED BY **BODIES** RIPE WITH THE STEAMING STENCH OF **DECAY**... INFESTED WITH BLOATED **WORMS**, FLESH FLAPPING IN GRUESOME RAGGED **TATTERS**...

ANIMATED CORPSES,
CORPSES INFUSED WITH A
GHASTLY SEMBLANCE
OF LIFE...

... **MOLDERING CORPSES**
WHICH LURCH UP THROUGH
STREAMING CASCADES OF
GRAVEDIRT...



... **GELID-EYED CADAVERS**
WHICH ARE BUT DEATH-
ROTTED **PARODIES** OF

... **ZOMBIES!**



ZOMBIES WHICH SHAMBLE
FORWARD ON DEATH-MIRED
LEGS, TO SLOWLY CONGREGATE
BEFORE THE **VOODOO FLAME**...

THE **PRIESTESS** RISES, FLUSHED,
HAGGARD, HER HEAVING BODY
DEPLETED OF LUST, **EXHAUSTED**...

AND **STILL** THE **CRAZED**
DRUMMERS SOUND THEIR
FRENZY...



... **UNTIL**...



... **ONE** OF THEM **SLUMPS FORWARD**,
CHEST SPROUTING A GLITTER-EDGED
LENGTH OF **SHARP PAIN**...!

THE **OTHERS** **FALTER**, THE **CEREMONIAL**
BEAT DRIBBLING INTO **SILENCE**... THE
SILENCE OF **CONFUSION**... AND
SHOCK.



SEETHING WITH **RAGE**, THE **PRIESTESS** **PIVOTS** TO THE **SOURCE** OF THE
HURLED **BLADE**... AND **FACES** A **CROUCH, TENSED DEVIL**...!

YOU...? H-HOW
CAN IT BE... Y-YOU'RE
DEAD...!



SARENA..?
YOUNG.. BEAUTIFUL...
JUST AS I REMEMBERED
HER! AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS..?

A BATED MOMENT OF SILENCE, SLICED BY CONVERGING GLARES. AND THEN THE PRIESTESS SCREAMS...

KILL!

KILL HIM!



BUT FEAR... AND PANIC... HAS INFECTED THE HANDFUL OF LIVING CULTISTS, LEAVING THEM DEAF TO THE HYSTERICAL COMMAND...

...AND THE RESURRECTED DEAD ARE SLOW TO RESPOND...

KILL HIM I SAY!

THE POWER OF DHAMBALLA COMMANDS YOU! KILL HIM!



BUT EVENTUALLY THEY DO RESPOND...

...IN A HORRID, ERRATIC GAIT, SHUFFLING FEET STRAINING THROUGH THE TORPOR OF DEATH...



SOMEWHERE NEARBY, A TOAD GRATES THE STILLNESS WITH ITS OBSCENE MATING CALL...

... AND THE FOREMOST ZOMBIE NEARS THE CROUCHED VISAGE OF A DEMON FROM HELL...



... A SLASHING DEMON WHO HALTS THE DEAD-THING'S STUMBLING FEET...



... AND HALTS, TOO, THE ENTIRE FOREFRONT OF THIS BLASPHEMOUS MARCH!



THEY CALL HIM **THE SPOOK**... A **LEGEND** WHO **SURGES**
 INTO THE **SCRABBLING** RANKS OF **ANIMATED** **CADAVERS**...

...HIS WHIPPED CHAIN **PULPING** THE
 UNCOMPREHENDING FACE OF **DISTURBED** **DEATH!**



THE **ZOMBIES** ARE **LETHARGIC**...
 MINDS AND **BODIES** **SLOWED**... NO
 MATCH FOR THIS **LEGEND** CHARGED
 WITH **DEVASTATING** **SPEED** AND
 SUPPLE **AGILITY**...!

DECOMPOSED **FLESH** **EXPLODES**
 FROM **CHAIN-LASHED** **BODIES**...

...PUTRESCENT **ICHOR** **SPURTS**
 AND **BUBBLES** FROM **PITIFUL**
 CREATURES MEETING **DEATH** A
SECOND **TIME**...!

THE **LEGEND** IS A **FURY**... A
 WITHERING **TEMPEST** OF **DEATH**,
 AND THE **WALKING** **CORPSES** **FALL**
SWIFTLY BEFORE HIS **ONSLAUGHT**.

BUT **MANY** ARE THE **NUMBER** OF
ZOMBIES TO **STALK** THIS **HOT** **NIGHT**,
 HELPLESS **PUPPETS** **CONTROLLED**
 BY A **SINGLE** **DEPRAVED** **FORCE**...



...AND AS **FETID** **DROVES** OF THE **UNDEAD** **SWARM** OVER THE **MAN**,
 SLIMING HIM WITH THE **CORRUPTION** OF THE **GRAVE**, THEIR **CLAMMY** **HANDS**
 GROPING AND **CLUTCHING** FOR HIM...

...HE **SENSES** THAT ONLY **ONE**
ACTION WILL **STOP** THEM...



...AND THAT ACTION FOCUSES ON...



...ELIMINATING...

NOOOOOOOO!



...THE SINGLE CONTROLLING
FORCE OF DEPRAVITY.

A SWIFT, POWERFUL KICK
SENDS THE VODOO SORCERESS
INTO HELLISH FLAMES OF THE
RITUAL BONFIRE...!

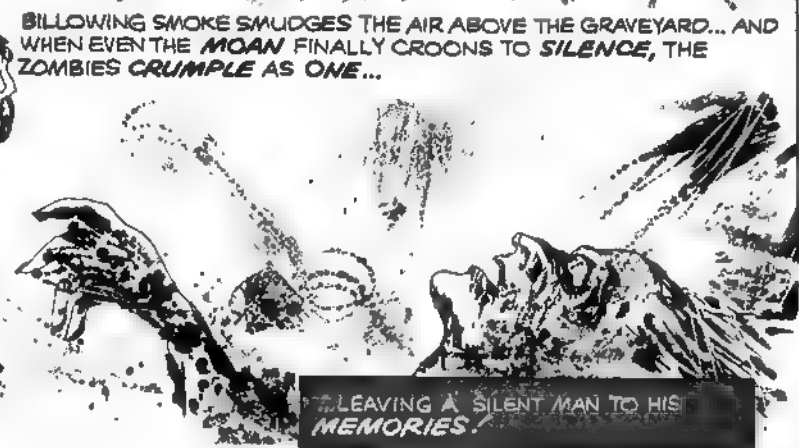
EEEEEEEEEE!



THE GURGLED SHRIEK SUBSIDES TO AN AGONIZED MOAN,
MINGLED WITH THE BRITTLE SPUTTER OF FLESH EMBRACED IN
FLAME!



BILLOWING SMOKE SMUDGES THE AIR ABOVE THE GRAVEYARD... AND
WHEN EVEN THE MOAN FINALLY CROONS TO SILENCE, THE
ZOMBIES CRUMPLE AS ONE...



...LEAVING A SILENT MAN TO HIS
MEMORIES!

1984

KILLING MACHINES... THAT'S WHAT THEY CALLED THEM... THE WEAPONS OF DESTRUCTION ON A DYING WORLD!

AND ALL FOUR PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE FINAL STRUGGLE... THE FINAL LEGEND TO EMERGE IN THE WANING DAYS OF MANKIND...!

THREE WERE HUMAN... ONE WAS MACHINE! BUT ALL FOUR WERE DEADLY, AND THE LAST OF THEIR KIND!

NUMBER ONE WAS A HUMAN. HIS NAME WAS SCHRECK! IN HIS DAY HE HAD SEEN HALF THE HUMAN POPULATION ON EARTH DESTROYED... AND FIFTY PERCENT OF THE SURVIVORS TURNED INTO MUTATED DEMONS!

NUMBER TWO WAS HALF HUMAN! HIS NAME WAS HUNTER! HIS FATHER WAS A MUTANT... A GENERAL IN THE DEMON FORCES. HIS MOTHER AN INNOCENT FLOWER, PLUCKED AND DESTROYED BY DEMON IDEOLOGY!

NUMBER THREE WAS A CHILD! HER NAME WAS ELIZABETH. SHE WAS A KILLER! HER PARENTS HAD BEEN SLAUGHTERED BY THE LAST REMAINING MUTANTS. NOW SHE WAS DESTROYING THE DEMON MUTANTS.

AND NUMBER FOUR WAS THE MACHINE... A DEADLY D-BOMB... THE DOOMSDAY WEAPON. IT WAS ONE OF THE THREE BUILT FOR THE DEMON-MANKIND WARS... ONE OF THE THREE MEANT TO DESTROY ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD. SHOULD THE DEMONS HAVE WON THAT WAR!



THAT **DOES** IT, OLD MAN! SHE'S **ACTIVATED** AND TICKING AWAY!

SIXTY MINUTES FROM NOW, THERE WON'T BE A **DEMON** LEFT ALIVE ON THIS PART OF THE **GLOBE**!

BOY, THIS PART OF THE **GLOBE** WON'T EVEN **EXIST**!

TICK! TICK! TICK!

YOU SOUND LIKE YOU **DISAPPROVE**, SCHRECK!

QUITE THE **CONTRARY**, LAD! IF THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO **RID** THIS OLD **BALL** OF THEM **COCK-ROACHES**, I'M ALL **FOR** IT!

IT'S ABOUT TIME **MAN** STARTED **CALLING** THE **SHOTS** AGAIN!

...EVEN IF PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME AND THAT **LITTLE PRINCESS** DOWN THERE, HAVE TO **DIE WITH** THOSE **KILL-CRAZED MUTATIONS**!



58 MIN. 2 SEC.

I ONLY REGRET I COULDN'T TAKE **OPPHAL** OUT **PERSONALLY**!

YOU WANT OLD **OPPHAL**, THE **DEMON GENERAL**?

I KNOW WHERE HE IS, **HUNTER**!

I SPENT MY **LIFE** **HUNTING** HIM DOWN...

I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO **SNEAK UP** ON HIM!

...**PLANNING MY REVENGE**!



57 MIN. 42 SEC.

NOW LISTEN, **BOY**...! YOU'RE IN **NO CONDITION** TO **TANGLE** WITH HIM!

THAT **DEMON** CUT YOU UP... THERE'S **POISON** IN YOUR WOUND!

YOU'RE **DYING**, **HUNTER**!

57 MIN. 17 SEC.

WHICH IS MY **BEST REASON** FOR **TAKING** HIM ON...

...IT'LL BE MY **LAST CHANCE** AT HIM!

56 MIN. 3 SEC.

WHAT'S THE **WORST** HE CAN DO...? **KILL ME?**

OLD MAN, IN LESS THAN AN **HOURL** WE'LL ALL BE **GONE ANYWAY**...

Y'KNOW, **BOY**, YOU HAVE A WAY OF **MAKING** EVEN **DEATH** SEEM **LOGICAL**!

...THAT **D-BOMB'S** GONNA **SPLATTER** US ACROSS THE **STARS**!

BESIDES, IF **THAT** **LITTLE THING** CAN **KILL** HALF THIS **DEMON ARMY** HERSELF... I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO **FACE** ONE OLD **NAS-BEEN**!



53 MIN. 49 SEC.

I THINK
I'LL TAKE OUT
A FEW LAST
DEMONS,
MYSELF!

COME ON,
GIRL... **SHOW**
US WHERE
THAT **DAMNED**
DEMON
GENERAL
IS...!

...THIS IS
A **BIG**
CASTLE, AND
WITHOUT YOU,
WE'D LOSE
OUR WAY,
SURE!

36 MIN. 16 SEC.

HERE! THESE
ARE OFFHAL'S
CHAMBERS! I-IT
USED TO BE MY
MOMMY AND
D-DADDY'S ROOM!

...BEFORE
HE HAD THEM
KILLED!

35 MIN. 46 SEC.

OFFHAL
MURDERED
SOMEONE I
LOVED, TOO,
LITTLE
PRINCESS...

...BUT IN
A FAR
DIFFERENT,
FAR MORE
HUMILIATING
WAY THAN
YOUR PARENTS
DIED!

YOUR
MOTHER AND
FATHER DIED
KNOWING YOU
WERE SAFELY
HIDDEN FROM
THE DEMONS
WHO INVADED
THEIR CASTLE!

THEY DIED
LIKE **HUMANS...**
WITH
DIGNITY...!

34 MIN. 58 SEC.

...WHICH IS
FAR **MORE**
THAN OFFHAL
SHALL
EMBRACE
IN DEATH!

I'VE SPENT A
LIFETIME **HUNTING**
HIM DOWN LIKE
A **DOG...**

...NOW
HE'LL **DIE**
LIKE ONE!

34 MIN. 02 SEC.

IT'S ABOUT **TIME**
YOU CAME IN,
DEMON HUNTER!

IF YOU **FIGHT** AS
WELL OR AS MUCH AS
YOU **TALK**, I MIGHT
GENUINELY BE IN
DANGER!

OFFHAL?
Y-YOU
HEARD
US?

33 MIN. 18 SEC.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN
DEAD LONG AGO, IF I
COULDN'T HEAR CLOWNS
JESTING...

NOW... WHICH
OF YOU INTENDS
TO **KILL** ME?

I, DEMON!

SO YOU'VE SPENT A
LIFETIME **HUNTING**
ME DOWN, BOY?

WHY? WHAT AM I TO
YOU THAT I WARRANT
SUCH **DEDICATION?**

BACK
OFF,
SCHRECK!
LEAVE ME
ALONE
WITH
HIM!

32 MIN. 30 SEC.

YOU... Y-YOU'RE
MY... **FATHER...**!

32 MIN. 58 SEC.

SCHRECK! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THEM IN THERE ALONE! HUNTER'S WOUNDED... DYING!

THE BOY IS DOING WHAT HE **MUST** PRINCESS!

YOU AND I WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP TO HIM! AN **OLD MAN** ... A CHILD...?

...IF ONLY I HAD MY WRIST-CUP... MY BANDOLIER OF **WEAPONS!**

30 MIN. 22 SEC.

I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE, SCHRECK!

I SAW THE DEMONS **HIDE THEM...** IN **HERE!**

WELL I'LL BE--

27 MIN. 57 SEC.

ISN'T THERE **ANYTHING** YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS CASTLE, LITTLE PRINCESS?

NO, I GUESS NOT... OR THE DEMONS WOULD HAVE CAPTURED YOU **LONG AGO...**

T-THIS IS WHERE THEY HID MOMMY AND DADDY'S WEAPONS... YOUR **UNIFORM...** HUNTER'S **HELMET** AND **STAFF!**

27 MIN. 06 SEC.

IT'LL FEEL GOOD GETTING INTO **DECENT CLOTHES** AGAIN!

HERE'S YOUR **ARMS - BELT, SCHRECK!**

26 MIN. 48 SEC.

GOOD! LET ME GET THIS PEACH FUZZ OFF MY FACE!

...THEN I'LL **SUIT UP!**

23 MIN. 38 SEC.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND MY **CROSSBOW** PRINCESS!

IT'S MY **FAVORITE** DEMON KILLER!

15 MIN. 10 SEC.

20 MIN. 12 SEC.
IT'S LIKE GIVING AN IMPOTENT OLD CODGER A SHOT OF **VITAMIN E!**

AH! A SHAVE, HAIRCUT, AND MY **WRIST-CUP...**

LET ME HAVE HUNTER'S **HELMET, CHILD!**

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT BOY **SEES** IN THIS **EGGSHELL!**

...MUST THINK HE'S CAPTAIN VIDEO!

BUT AS LONG AS THIS HELMET HIDES MY **CANTELOPE** AND **COTTON BALL** HEAD, I MIGHT ACTUALLY BLUFF A FEW DEMONS INTO BELIEVING I'M **FIERCE!**

COME ON, GIRL! LET'S GO FIND US SOME **GREASEBALL** **MUTANTS!**

14 MIN. 26 SEC.

WHO ARE YOU
TO DARE CALL
ME **FATHER?**

I WOULD NEVER
CONCEDE YOU
THAT **HONOR,**
DEMON!

BUT YOU
Sired ME,
ALRIGHT! YOU
RAPED MY
MOTHER!

...AND YOU
CURSED ME...
CONTAMINATED
ME WITH YOUR
TWISTED
MUTATION!

YOU'VE MADE ME
A **HALF-BREED**
AN OUTCAST BY
BOTH MAN AND
DEMONS!

THERE MUST
BE **HUNDREDS**
LIKE YOU...
WALLOWING
IN THEIR
HALF-BREED
MISERY...

IT'S TOO BAD
THAT HUMAN
WOMEN ARE SO
BEAUTIFUL...

...THEY PRODUCE
WEAK CHILDREN...
CHILDREN WITH
HUMAN EMOTIONS!

...WISHING
FOR ME
TO **DIE!**

10 MIN. 37 SEC.

DEMONS ARE INCAPABLE
OF SELF-PITY! WE FEEL NO
EMOTIONS... SO WE HAVE NO
WEAKNESSES!

IF YOU WERE
TRULY MY SON,
YOU WOULD BE
HARD... LIKE A
DEMON!

BUT YOU'RE
NOT! YOU'RE
ONLY **HALF**
A MAN!

YES, I AM **HALF** A MAN!
BUT YOU, OFPHAL, WITH THAT
MISSING ARM, ARE ONLY
HALF A DEMON!

13 MIN 52 SEC

SO YOU'VE **PITIED**
YOURSELF ALL
THESE YEARS...
LUSTED FOR
VENGEANCE
BY MY DEATH!

NANI!
DO YOU THINK
YOU'RE THE **ONLY**
HALF-BREED I'VE
EVER Sired?

9 MIN. 12 SEC.

DID A
WOMAN
BITE IT
OFF? THEY
SEEM TO
BE YOUR
ONLY
PREY!

AND **YES,** THERE ARE
OTHER HALF-BREDS...
BUT THERE'S ONLY
ONE WHO WILL
KILL OFPHAL...

THERE IS
ONLY ONE
DEMIAN
HUNTER,
DEMON
KILLER!

YOU SAY YOUR
NAME AS THOUGH
YOU ARE A **LEGEND...**
AS IF I'M SUPPOSED
TO **QUIVER** AT
THE MENTION
OF IT!

SORRY, KID!
I NEVER
HEARD
OF HUNTER,
THE DEMON
KILLER!

8 MIN. 22 SEC.

NOW, IF
YOU'VE
COME TO
KILL ME...
DO
IT!

YOU ARE **ALREADY**
DEAD, OFPHAL! I'VE
ARMED A **D-BOMB!**

IN LESS THAN
TEN MINUTES, YOU
AND EVERY DEMON
ON THIS SIDE OF
THE WORLD WILL
BE **DEAD!**



7 MIN. 47 SEC.

YOU **LIE**, DEMON-KILLER!
THE D-BOMB IS A **MYTH**!
IT WAS A **PLAY** USED TO
THREATEN US!

THE BOMB IS
REAL, OFFHAL!
AND ONE IS ABOUT
TO **ERUPT** RIGHT
UNDER OUR
FEET!

THEN, YOU
AND YOUR
PRECIOUS
FRIENDS
WILL DIE
WITH ME,
HUNTER!

0 MIN. 58 SEC.

I HAVE
EVERY
INTENTION
OF DYING,
DEMON!

...BUT YOU WANT
TO KILL ME
PERSONALLY!

YOU'VE WAITED
FAR TOO LONG
FOR THIS, TO LET
A **MACHINE**
DO **YOUR** KILLING!

0 MIN. 14 SEC.

IF YOU **WANT**
ME, YOU'D
BETTER
HURRY...!

0 MIN. 9 SEC.

YOUR **BOMB**
SHOULD BE
GOING OFF...
RIGHT...

0 MIN. 04 SEC.

ABOUT...

0 MIN. 02 SEC.

NOW!

0 MIN. 0 SEC.

I... I
CAN'T...

~~THE FATHER~~
EH, BOY? YOU
AND YOUR
DOOMSDAY
BOMB...!

...BOTH
INCAPABLE OF
PERFORMANCE!

...BOTH
BRED BY
HUMAN
TECHNOLOGY...

BUT **WHY**, BOY?
WHY COULDN'T YOU
KILL ME? BECAUSE
I AM **OLD**...
BECAUSE I AM
A **CRIPPLE**...?

...OR BECAUSE PETTY
SENTIMENTALITY
DICTATES THAT
YOU DO NOT KILL
YOUR **FATHER**!?

YOU'RE **WEAK**
HUNTER! AND
YOU'RE A
FOOL!

YOU WERE
READY TO
BLOW UP HALF
THIS PLANET,
TO **RID** IT OF
MUTANTS...!

...YOU **FOOL**!
MAN HAS BEEN
KILLING **US** OFF,
JUST AS HE NEARLY
KILLED HIMSELF
OFF!

THERE'S ONLY
THREE OF
US LEFT,
HUNTER!

YOU HEAR
THAT, YOU
FOOL? YOU
WOULD'VE
BLOWN UP
A PLANET
TO KILL
THREE
HALF-STARVED,
HALF-DEAD
MUTANTS!

CORRECTION,
OFFHAL...

...TO KILL
ONE
MUTANT!

YOU'RE
ALL THAT'S
LEFT!

IT LOOKS
LIKE MAN'S
WEAK
LIFESTYLE
IS GOING
TO WIN OUT
AFTER ALL,
OPPHAL!

MANKIND
MAY
WIN...

...BUT
YOU
HUNTER...

I HAVE NO
PETTY QUALMS
ABOUT KILLING
MY OWN
"SON!"

WILL
NOT!

NO!

A CRY... AND A MURDEROUS,
VENGEFUL SCREAM...
FROM SCHRECK,
'SIMULTANEOUSLY!

AAARG!!

NO!
D-DON'T DIE
LIKE THIS BOY!

Y-YOU CAN'T...

ME... THE
GIRL...
N-NEED
YOU!

HUNTER!

THEY CALLED HIM
HUNTER... THE
LAST LEGEND
TO SPRING
FROM THE LOINS
OF A DYING
EARTH...

H-HE'S
GONE,
OLD MAN!
H-HE DIED...
LIKE A
DEMON...
PROUD...
SILENTLY!

BUT... HE...
WAS ALL...
MAN!

MY SON...
WAS... A... MAN!

THEY SAY THE
SUN SHONE
BRIGHTER, AND
THE BIRDS
AGAIN SANG
THE DAY HE WAS
LAID TO REST!

WEAPONS WERE
PUT DOWN FOR
THE FINAL TIME...

...AND MANKIND
OPENED A NEW
CHAPTER IN HISTORY!

BUT TWO
HEARTS
HUNG
HEAVY...

...WITH
LOSS!

PROLOGUE

THE CHILL LIGHT OF DAWN
CASTS AN EERIE GLOW OVER
A NEW DAY.

AND INNOCENT PAWNS UNKNOWINGLY
ADD THEIR OWN SIGNATURES
TO A CRIME ALREADY COMMITTED...

A DELIVERY BOY AND A
MAID, CALMLY GO
ABOUT THEIR DUTIES...

...NOT LIKE ACTORS
UNDERSTANDING
THE DRAMA IN
WHICH THEY HAVE
BEEN CAST... BUT
PAWNS... MERE
PAWNS...

A
PACKAGE,
MUM!

OH HOW SWEET!
AND AFTER THE
WAY I TREATED
HIM LAST NIGHT!

I SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN GEORGE
WOULD NEVER
FORGET OUR
ANNIVERSARY!

HE MAY HAVE HAD
TO WORK LATE AT
THE STATION LAST
NIGHT, BUT I SHOULD
HAVE REALIZED
THAT DIDN'T MEAN
HE HAD
FORGOTTEN!

THE CHIEF
CAN ALWAYS TALK
GEORGE INTO EXTRA
DUTY... EVEN WHEN ITS
ON A SPECIAL
OCCASSION!

AND THEN, THE AIMLESS CHATTER
IS SHATTERED BY A PIERCING
SCREAM... TOTAL, SCREAMING,
SENSE-SHATTERING SHOCK...



HIDE FROM THE HACKER!

THEY SAY A MADMAN
USED TO STALK THE STREETS...
CUTTING, CHOPPING, HACKING
AWAY AT PASSERSBY...

DETECTIVE MICHAEL SMYTHE
WAS RELATIVELY NEW TO
SCOTLAND YARD!

IN HIS THREE SHORT YEARS
HE HAD NEVER QUITE SEEN
A CASE THAT MADE HIM
SO QUEEZY!

INSPECTOR ALFRED YARDLEY
HAD FIFTEEN YEARS ON THE
FORCE!

HE HAD SEEN MANY BLOODY
AND GORY MURDERS! BUT
THE SIGHT OF HIS OLD FRIEND
GEORGE'S HEAD, STICKING
FROM OUT OF A HATBOX,
LEFT HIM QUITE FLABBER-
GHASTED!

GOOD LORD,
MATILDA!
WHO WOULD
DO SUCH
A THING?

THE POOR MAN
HADN'T AN ENEMY
IN THE WORLD,
SIR!

H-HOW...
WHY WOULD
ANYONE DO
THIS...?

A-AND WHERE
IS THE POOR
MAN'S BODY?

HE WAS A
POLICE MAN,
MY DEAR...
SO HE MUST
HAVE HAD
ENEMIES!

AS FOR
HIS BODY...
WE'LL FIND
THAT WHEN
WE FIND
HIS
KILLER!

THIS IS JUST
LIKE ANOTHER
CASE I INVESTIGATED...
QUITE A FEW YEARS
BACK...




I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT DO YOU--

IT WAS YEARS AGO! MORE THEN TEN YEARS AGO, WE WERE FACED WITH A SIMILAR SERIES OF BIZARRE BEHEADING MURDERS! AND, AT FIRST, WE DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE CLUE...

HIS WORDS BEGET IMAGES OF A YOUNGER INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING A SIMILAR SERIES OF CRIMES...

SIR, THE CORONER'S COME UP WITH SOMETHING! SAYS IT HAS TO DO WITH THOSE GRISLY MURDERS! HE WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY!

GOOD SHOW! THIS MAY BE JUST THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS! THIS CASE MAY HAVE BEEN BIZARRE SO FAR, BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS! THIS IS THE TOPPER!

GO ON! TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF!

YOU'VE GIVEN IT QUITE A BUILDUP! I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!

*BUT NO BUILD UP COULD HAVE PREPARED ME FOR WHAT I SAW NEXT! A MAN'S HAND, DECKED OUT AS THOUGH IT WERE A TASTY SNACK. TRULY, WE WERE DEALING WITH AN ABSOLUTE MAD-MAN!!

THE INTEGRAL CLUE...THAT LED TO
A QUICK SOLUTION TO THE CRIMES...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE,
BLOKE, AND ALLOW ME
TO PLACE YOU UNDER
ARREST!

...AND THE QUICK CAPTURE OF THE MADMAN
RESPONSIBLE...OR WAS HE THE MAN RESPONSIBLE?

WE'VE GOT HIM WITH AN
OVEN FILLED WITH EVIDENCE!

I BELIEVE
IT'S SAFE TO
SAY THIS CASE
IS CLOSED!

IT COULDN'T
BE THE SAME
MAN, AT IT
AGAIN! HE
WAS TRIED
AND CONVICTED,
AND FINALLY
HANGED!

SO, EITHER
SOMEONE
NEW HAS
ADOPTED
THE
MURDERER'S
STYLE...

...OR, TEN YEARS
AGO, WE
CONVICTED THE
WRONG MAN!

BUT IT'S THE
EXACT SAME
METHOD OF
OPERATION!

NAT, I'VE GOT A
RATHER GORY JOB
FOR YOU! I WANT
YOU AND THE LAB
BOYS TO CHECK OUT
THE PAINT ON THIS
HEAD! I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT IT'S
MADE OF!

OH MY
LORD!
IS THAT
RUGGELSEY?

NO MURDER... A CASE OF...
HE FLOATS THROUGH THE MIDNIGHT
STREETS...

...FINDING AND FOCUSING
FULL ATTENTION UPON HIS
PREY...

SILENTLY... SMOOTHLY... SWIFTLY,
A LETHAL BLADE IS RAISED...
READY FOR THE KILL...

...AND THEN **SWUNG...**
IN A DEADLY,
DESTRUCTIVE ARC...

...DRAWING A BLOODY
LINE BETWEEN THE
LIVING AND THE DEAD...

CLUSTERS OF ACTIVITY AROUND THIS
NIGHT... IN ONE SECTOR, A NEW CRIME...
WHILE, ELSEWHERE WORK CONTINUES
ON THE PREVIOUS KILLING...

HERE'S THE PRELIMINARY
LAB REPORT, INSPECTOR! THE
PAINT HAS BASICALLY A
VEGETABLE MAKE UP!

HAVE THEM CHECK AND
SEE IF IT'S THE SAME TYPE
OF VEGETABLE DYE USED BY
CHEFS!

AND THE FIRST RAYS OF THE RISING SUN BREAK
OVER THE FOG-SHROUDED HORIZON, AS CONCLUSIONS
ARE FINALLY MADE... AND AN ALL IMPORTANT CALL
RECEIVED...

IT WAS THE SAME TYPE
OF VEGETABLE DYE! SO
FAR EVERYTHING IS
WORKING OUT JUST
AS I SUSPECTED! IF--

I'LL
GET IT,
SIR!

WHAT? OH MY GOD! YES, OF COURSE HE
MUST BE SHAKEN UP! TELL HIM TO TAKE
SOME TIME OFF! WE'LL HANDLE IT FROM
HERE ON OUT!

O'HARA JUST WENT TO
RELIEVE McDUGGAL ON
HIS BEAT, AND ALL HE
FOUND OF McDUGGAL
WAS HIS HEAD!

I'LL GET
DOWN THERE
IMMEDIATELY,
SIR! YOU'LL HAVE
ALL THE DETAILS
ON YOUR DESK
EARLY THIS
AFTERNOON!

OFFICE
CHIEF INSPECTOR

**NEXT STOP: THE
SCENE OF THE
CRIME, WHERE
THE ROOKIE
NEARLY LOSES
HIS HASTILY-
CONSUMED
LUNCH...**

**AN INVESTIGATION AMID THE SENSUAL
SQUALL OF THIS POORER PART OF TOWN...
THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT... HOOKERS,
PAN-HANDLERS, BAWDY BARS... AND
SMYTHE FINDS HIMSELF FACED WITH A
HORRENDOUS INABILITY TO COPE
WITH THESE UNFAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS
...LAUGHTER, DERISION... THOSE THAT
AREN'T TIGHT-LIPPED THANKS TO HIS
QUESTIONS SIMPLY STRING HIM ALONG
TO PLAY WITH HIS NAIVETE... AND
ULTIMATELY PROVIDE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL
SHOVE, CREATING PRATFALL UPON
PRATFALL... FLAT ON HIS UNCALLOUSED
EGO...**



**UNTIL FINALLY A EXHAUSTIVE
VOICE IS MORE THAN WELCOMED...
IT IS NEARLY EMBRACED...**

**YOUNG MAN,
IT WOULD SEEM
TO ME YOU NEED
A BIT OF ADVICE
ABOUT THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD!**

**AND HOW
ABOUT A
FREE
SANDWICH
TO BOOT!?**



I DON'T THINK I COULD EAT ANYTHING. I'M INVESTIGATING THE AXE MURDERS, AND IT LEFT ME A BIT QUEASY!

AH, YES, IT'S A TERRIBLE BUSINESS. PEOPLE SHOULD STICK TO CRIMES OF PASSION. IT MAKES MORE SENSE.



IT'S FUNNY, BUT THE SIGHT OF ALL THIS CUT-UP MEAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL. IT'S NORMAL, FAMILIAR!

OF COURSE IT IS MY FRIEND. PEOPLE SANDWICHES JUST DON'T APPEAR ON MOST MENUS!



A MAN NAMED PATU, SEEMED TO THINK OTHERWISE, ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO!

YES, I REMEMBER THE CASE! PATU'S SON IS JUST AS MIXED UP AS HE WAS. HE THINKS HE'S A GREAT LOVER!



LOVER, HAH! I MYSELF LOST MY EYE IN A FIGHT OVER A DELICIOUS RED-HEADED WOMAN! IT WAS WORTH IT!

WAIT A MINUTE! YOU KNOW PATU'S SON? YOU MUST TELL ME WHERE HE IS!



THAT LITTLE WORM IS NOT EVEN WORTH BEING A SUSPECT! BUT YOU MIGHT FIND HIM AT THE CROWING COCK! HE TRIES TO IMPRESS THE LADIES THERE...

GEE, THANKS! MAY I USE YOUR PHONE?



THAT'S RIGHT, INSPECTOR! I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!

▲ CROWDED PUB, FILLED WITH DOXIES, HOOKERS, HEAVY DRINKERS AND LADIES OF BRASH, BAWDY CHARM...
A CONTINUATION OF THE ALIENATION HE FELT EARLIER... UNTIL THEY SPOT THE SUSPECT...



...AND HE, IN TURN, SPOTS THEM...



YOUTH DOES NOT MEAN *INEXPERIENCE*... FOR NOW YOUTH IS ON HIS *SIDE*... HE IS MORE *ATHLETIC* THAN HIS OPPONENT... AND TIRES FAR LESS *EASILY*...



THE OLDER MAN FIGHTS WITH *DESPERATION* AND *ADRENALIN*, BUT HE IS OUT OF *BREATH*... WHILE SMYTHE HAS HARDLY EVEN NOTICED THE *RUN* AND THE *TACKLE* THAT LED TO THIS CONFRONTATION...



THE *OUTCOME* IS *OBVIOUS*...



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE *RUN* LIKE THAT! THERE'S NO *SURER* SIGN OF *GUILT*!

BEFORE YOU WERE JUST WANTED FOR *QUESTIONING*, BUT NOW YOU'RE BOUND TO BE THE *MAJOR SUSPECT* IN THIS MURDER CASE!

LET ME GO, OR I'LL--



SOMEBODY PLEASE TAKE THIS VERMIN OFF MY HANDS!

LOOKS LIKE WE GOT THIS ONE ALL *WRAPPED UP*! HE'S THE *GUilty* ONE ALL RIGHT, WHAT WITH THE WAY HE'S BEEN *THREATENING* ME, AND THE *THINGS* HE'S BEEN SAYING HE'LL DO TO MY *BODY* ONCE HE KILLS ME!

IT IS *OVER*... BUT IT IS HARDLY A *HAPPY* ENDING... THERE IS STILL THAT BITTER *TASTE* IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND... TWO *SENSELESS KILLINGS*... TWO *FINE MEN* SLAUGHTERED BY A *MADMAN*, BEFORE THE *ENDING* WAS *EVE* IN *SIGHT*.

C'MON, NAT! WE'LL PROBABLY *NEED* YOU TO TAKE *NOTES*, WHILE I GIVE THE OLD MAN THE *DETAILS*!





HMMM...
NOT HERE!
THAT'S
STRANGE!
HE--

SAY,
WHAT'S
THAT?



OH,
DEAR
GOD!
NO!



NAT, TELL THE BOYS
DOWNSTAIRS I...
I'M ORDERING
THE RELEASE
OF THE MAN I
J-JUST BROUGHT
IN!

HUNH? BUT
IT WOULD--

JUST
DO IT!



...HE'S NOT THE
ONE WE'RE AFTER.
I KNOW. I--I'VE
BEEN WITH HIM
EVER SINCE ME
AND THE
INSPECTOR
SPLIT UP!

AND... AND THAT
MEANS THE MAN
I BROUGHT IN
NEVER EVEN
GOT A CHANCE
TO--TO--

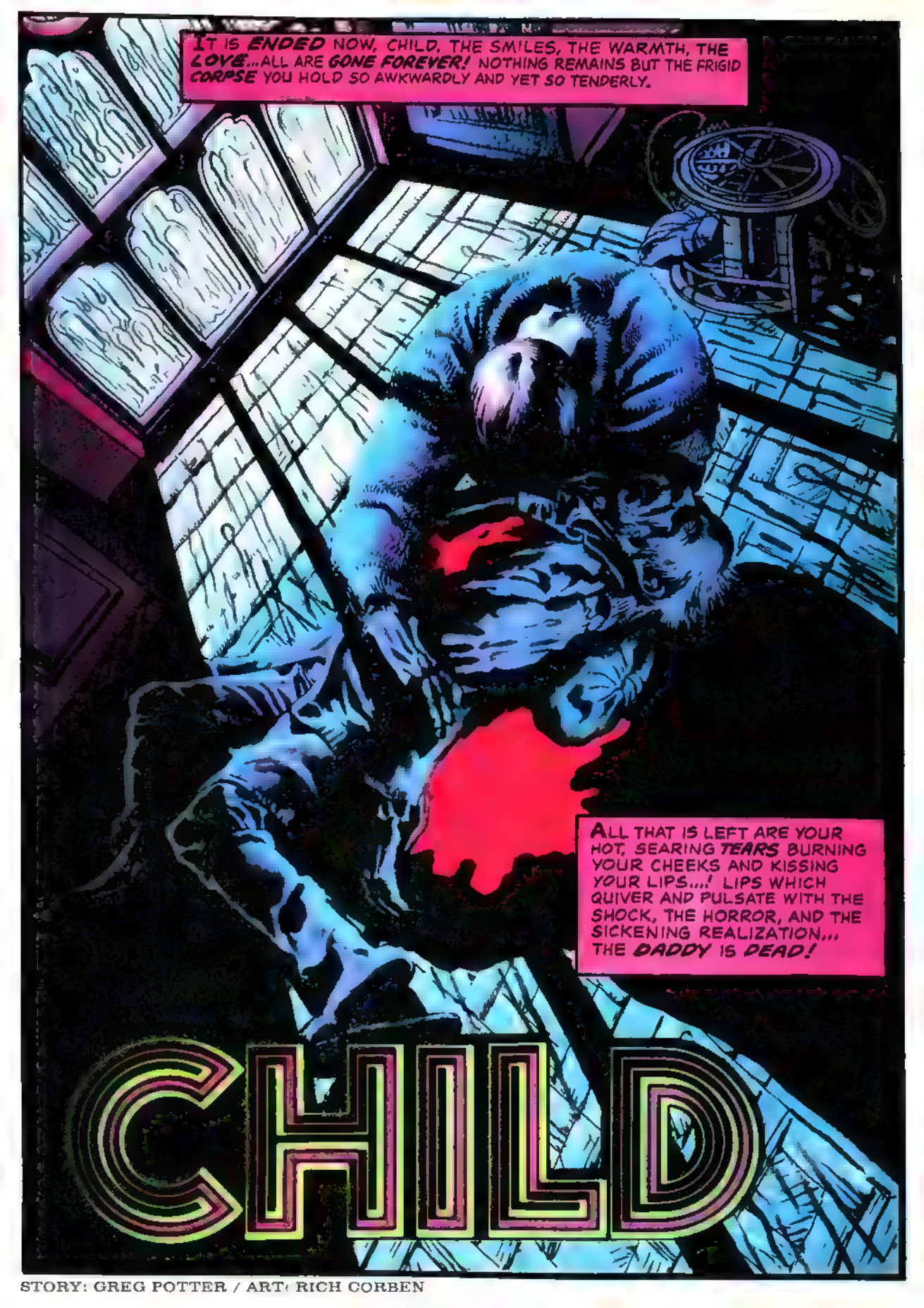


YOU FIGURED WRONG,
MICHAEL SMYTHE. YOU
JUMPED TOO QUICKLY
TO A HASTY CONCLUSION.
THE GRUESOME,
HACKING MURDERS
HAVE NOT YET
ENDED... IF, IN FACT,
THEY SHALL
EVER END...

OH DEAR
GOD! NO!
NO! NO!

AND, ELSEWHERE, A CRAZED KILLER SLINKS
THROUGH THE SWIRLING MIST, FREE TO STRIKE
AGAIN, SPREADING FEAR THROUGHOUT THE
CITY, FEAR THAT MANIFESTS ITSELF IN A
CONTINUAL, GROWING MURMUR OF REPUNANT
WHISPERS, "HIDE FROM THE HACKER!"
HIDE FROM THE HACKER!"





IT IS ENDED NOW, CHILD, THE SMILES, THE WARMTH, THE LOVE...ALL ARE GONE FOREVER! NOTHING REMAINS BUT THE FRIGID CORPSE YOU HOLD SO AWKWARDLY AND YET SO TENDERLY.

ALL THAT IS LEFT ARE YOUR HOT, SEARING **TEARS** BURNING YOUR CHEEKS AND KISSING YOUR LIPS...! LIPS WHICH QUIVER AND PULSATE WITH THE SHOCK, THE HORROR, AND THE SICKENING REALIZATION... THE **DADDY IS DEAD!**

CHILD

YOU KNOW HOW IT **ENDS**, CHILD! BUT YOU NEVER DID KNOW HOW IT **BEGAN**. YOU WERE NOT THERE TO SEE THE SKIES DARKEN WITH **GLOOM**... TO FEEL **TEARS** DRIBBLE FROM THE CLOUDS... TO WATCH THE TERRIBLE **SORROW** ON YOUR FATHER'S FACE AS HE LAID HIS BELOVED **WIFE** TO REST...!

YOU NEVER EVEN GAVE ME A CHILD. I WANTED A SON, LIKE JERRY'S... BUT YOU **CHEATED** ME! IT'S NOT **RIGHT** ELLIE... SOB...!

IT'S NOT FAIR, ELLIE! IT'S NOT FAIR THAT YOU DIED AND LEFT ME ALONE!

ONLY JEROME LIEDERMAN AND HIS SON WERE THERE TO SHARE YOUR DADDY'S **SORROW**! GOOD OLD JERRY, DADDY'S BEST FRIEND... AND HIS **LANDLORD**...

BARTON, YOU'VE GOT TO **FORGET** ELLIE... FORGET THE PAST! YOU'VE GOT YOUR WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF YOU...!

YOU'RE A **BRILLIANT** SCIENTIST, BARTON, WITH A **PROMISING** FUTURE! LOSE YOURSELF IN YOUR **WORK**... TRY TO FORGET ELLIE! YOU CAN LIVE **RENT FREE** FOR AWHILE!

AND THE FIRST PERSON TO **DOUBT** YOUR FATHER'S **SANITY**...!

THAT'S IT, JERRY, I'LL **CREATE** THE SON ELLIE NEVER GAVE ME!

THAT WAS WHERE IT **STARTED**, CHILD. THAT WAS THE MOMENT OF YOUR UNEARTHLY **CONCEPTION**. THAT VERY SAME NIGHT YOUR FATHER PUT YOU **TOGETHER** FROM PIECES OF BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS, **HALF ROTTEN** IN HIS LONG UNUSED LABORATORY ON BLUECHERRY HILL MANSION!

I SHALL HAVE A SON WHO WILL NEVER GROW **OLDER**... NEVER BECOME **MATURE**! ALWAYS... ALWAYS WILL HE WORSHIP HIS FATHER!

AND I WILL BE **PROUD** TO BE THE FATHER OF A BOY WITH THE **MUSCLES** OF A BULL, THE **EYES** OF AN **EAGLE**!

I'M GOING TO **HAVE** A SON, ELLIE! I'M GOING TO **HAVE** A SON!

STITCH BY STITCH, PIECE BY PUTRID PIECE THE WORK PROGRESSED UNTIL THE UGLY, DISTORTED FRAME OF A HUMANOID CHILD LAY UPON THE WORKBENCH OF THE CRAZED SCIENTIST.

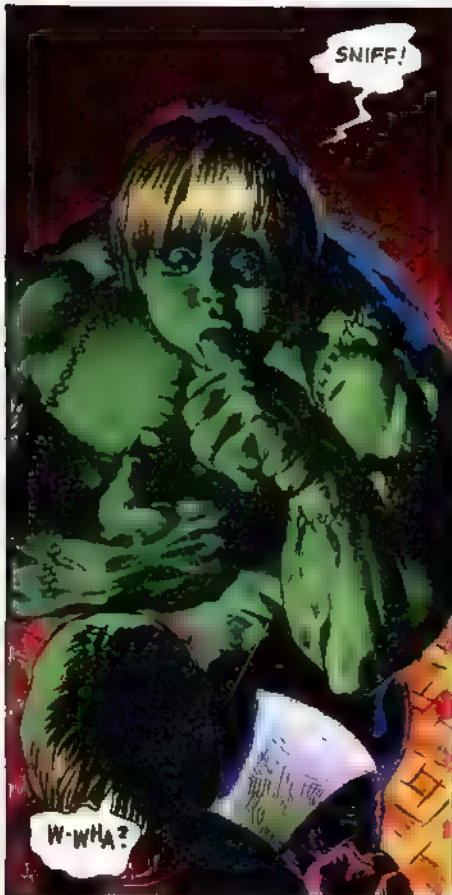


YOU SAW HIM...YOUR DADDY. YOU STRETCHED YOUR LOVING ARMS TO **EMBRACE** HIM. YOU **ADVANCED**. BUT YOU DIDN'T COMPREHEND THE LOOK OF **HORROR** WHICH SLOWLY DROPPED IT'S SHADOW ACROSS HIS FACE.



CONFUSION. DADDY RAN FROM YOU. DIDN'T DADDY **LIKE** YOU? DIDN'T DADDY **LOVE** HIS BOY?

CERTAINLY DADDY LOVED HIS BOY! HE CREATED HIM, DIDN'T HE? DADDY'S JUST PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK. HAPPILY YOU LUMBERED OFF AFTER DADDY AND **FOUND** HIM! DADDY WASN'T VERY GOOD AT **HIDING**.

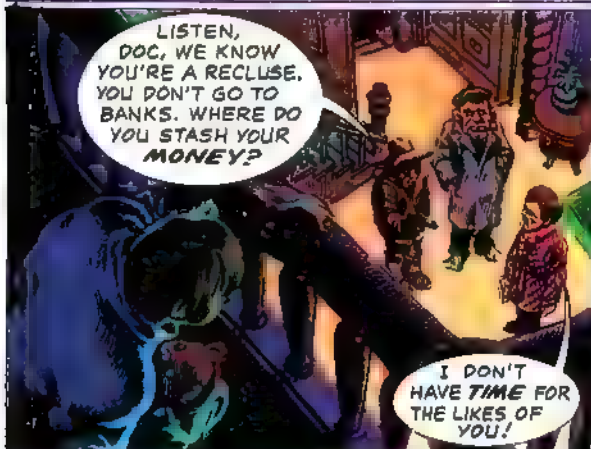




AND THAT WAS THE LAST TIME
DADDY EVER MADE YOU *UNHAPPY*.
WASN'T IT CHILD? THE FOLLOWING
YEARS WERE FULL OF *LOVE*. YOU
DIDN'T *CARE* ABOUT THE WORLD
BEYOND YOUR FATHER'S LONELY
HOUSE... *IT* AND *DADDY* WERE
ALL YOU *DESIRED*.

WHEN ONE NIGHT, YOU HEARD DADDY TALKING TO SOME
MEN. SO YOU SNEAKED DOWN TO SEE THEM. THEY
WERE PLAYING *COPS* AND *ROBBERS* WITH DADDY.

BUT THEY PLAYED TOO *ROUGH* AND *HURT* DADDY...



LISTEN,
DOC, WE KNOW
YOU'RE A RECLUSE.
YOU DON'T GO TO
BANKS. WHERE DO
YOU STASH YOUR
MONEY?

I DON'T
HAVE TIME FOR
THE LIKES OF
YOU!



MAKE
TIME, OLD
MAN!

WHACK!

AND THAT *ANGERED* YOU! NO ONE COULD PICK ON YOUR DADDY!

YOU HAD TO TEACH THESE BAD MEN A *LESSON*. SO YOU
GRABBED HOLD OF THE ONE WHO HIT DADDY AND
ANGRILY *SQUEEZED* HIS THROAT...



W-WHAT
KIND OF
THING IS THAT?



...UNTIL THE FUNNY
LITTLE GURGLING NOISES
HE MADE HAD *CEASED*,
AND HIS FACE HAD
TURNED A SOFT BLUE.

WHUB!

AND AS FOR THE OTHER BAD MAN...

BASH!

THBLUMP

AND THEN YOU SCURRIED UPSTAIRS BEFORE DADDY AWOKE, TO FIND YOU **LIP** PAST YOUR BEDTIME.

YOU DIDN'T SEE DADDY AWAKE. YOU DIDN'T SEE THE LOOK OF **NORROR** ON HIS FACE WHEN HE SAW WHAT YOU HAD DONE.

GOD! I'VE CREATED A MONSTER...! WHAT KIND OF BLOODTHIRSTY... BUT NO! CHILD IS THE SAME AS ANY OTHER KID.

HE'S NO DIFFERENT FROM THE LITTLE GIRL WHO THROWS SAND IN HER FRIEND'S EYES OR THE BOY WHO DESTROYS HIS BROTHER'S TOYS.


CHILD IS JUST... STRONGER, THAT'S ALL. HIS MIND ISN'T READY TO CONTROL THE POWER HIS BODY AFFORDS HIM.

MORE YEARS PASSED. FUNNY THINGS WERE BEGINNING TO HAPPEN TO DADDY. HIS HAIR WAS GETTING LIGHTER AND ALL DAY LONG HE SAT IN A FUNNY METAL CHAIR WITH WHEELS! IF DADDY WAS CHANGING, WHY WASN'T CHILD?

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, YOU WERE SAD BECAUSE DADDY BEGAN TO CRY. YOU COULD NOT SEE THE TEARS... BUT YOU KNEW OF HIS **SORROW**...

CHILD, I'VE SOME SAD NEWS. MY GOOD FRIEND AND OUR OLD LANDLORD JERRY LIEDERMAN PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT. POOR JERRY, YOU REMEMBER ME TELLING YOU OF HIM...?

HE WAS A GOOD FRIEND, CHILD. I LOVED HIM!



IT WAS UPON THAT VERY SAME DAY, AS YOU WERE PLAYING IN YOUR SAND-BOX, THAT DADDY HAD AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR.

HENRY!
HENRY LIEDER-
MAN! HOW YOU'VE
GROWN SO, BOY!
I HARDLY KNEW
YOU...

I'VE NO
TIME FOR
COURTESIES,
DR. CLERVEL.
IF YOU'LL JUST
ALLOW ME TO
SAY MY PIECE,
I'LL BE
GONE.

CERTAINLY,
HENRY. COME
IN!

THE VISIT WAS **HARDLY** A PLEASANT ONE.

...AND THIS
PROSPECTOR TELLS
ME THAT THERE IS A
FORTUNE IN OIL
UNDER THIS HOUSE!

I WANT
THAT OIL BADLY,
DR. CLERVEL. AS MY
FATHER'S SUCCESSOR,
I **DEMAND** YOU
LEAVE HERE
IMMEDIATELY!

HOLD ON, HENRY.
ACCORDING TO JERRY'S
WILL, SHOULD I COMPLETE
THE LAST RENTAL PAYMENT,
DUE NEXT WEEK, THIS HOUSE
BELONGS TO **ME!**

THEN I'LL
BUY THE DAMN
HOUSE FROM YOU,
DOCTOR...!

NO HENRY. I
CANNOT SELL THE
HOUSE. SOMEONE WILL
NEED IT WHEN I'M
GONE.

THEN I'M
SORRY TOO,
OLD MAN!

ARGHHH!

YOU **HEARD** THE DEATH
SCREAM, DIDN'T YOU,
CHILD? WASN'T THAT WHY
YOU SUDDENLY DROPPED
YOUR TOYS AND CAME
RUNNING INTO THE HOUSE...
RUNNING INTO WHERE
THERE HAD BEEN **LOVE**
AND **LIFE**... TO WHERE
THERE NOW LAY ONLY
COLDNESS AND **DEATH**?

AND YOU **HELD** DADDY FOR
A LONG WHILE IN YOUR ARMS,
GENTLY **ROCKING** HIM...
GENTLY WHIMPERING
YOUR WORDLESS
PRAYER.

BUT IT DIDN'T **HELP!**
DADDY WAS **DEAD**,
CHILD. IT WAS A HARD
CONCEPT TO GRASP.
DADDY WAS **GONE!**

THE FIRST PANGS OF GRIEF ARE NOT YET OVER WHEN YOU HEAR THEM...THE FOOTSTEPS ASCENDING THE STAIRS FROM DADDY'S LABORATORY!

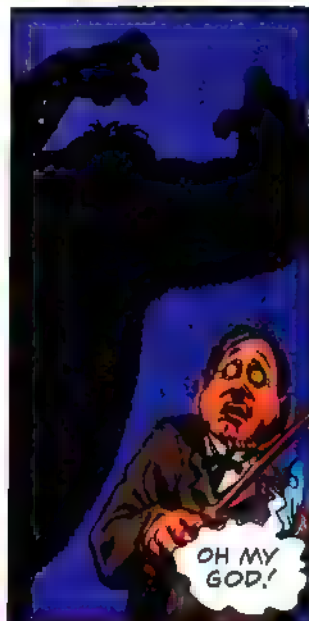
TENDERLY, YOU PLACE DADDY BACK UPON THE UNCARING, BLOOD-STAINED FLOOR. QUIETLY YOU HIDE, LETTING THE FOOTSTEPS GET CLOSER AND CLOSER!



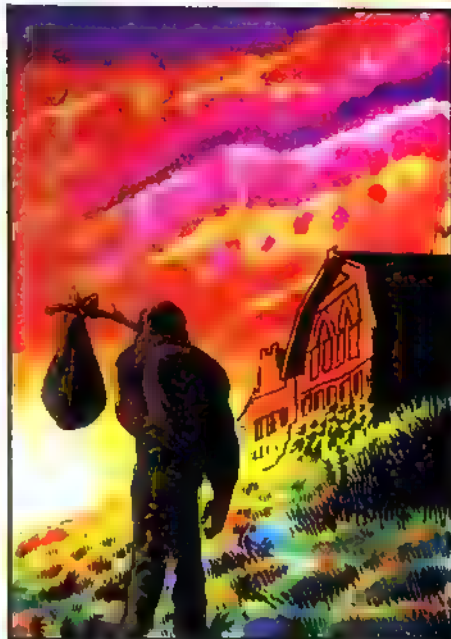
AND WITH EACH FOOTFALL THE HATE WELLS UP INSIDE YOU. YOUR BLOOD BOILS AND YOUR FINGERS ITCH FOR THE FEEL OF FLESH. SUDDENLY, THE MAN APPEARS...



...HE SEES YOU...



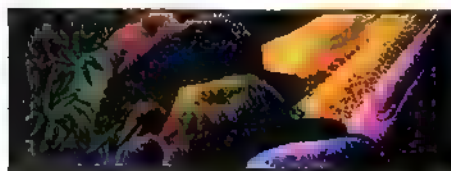
AND YOU ARE UPON HIM!



IT IS ALMOST MORNING NOW. THE SKY IS BLEEDING UPON THE HORIZON AND THE NOCTURNAL CRICKETS ARE OUTDONE BY THE SONGS OF THE DAWN SPARROWS.



ONE LAST LOOK, CHILD, AT THE HOME YOU HAVE LOVED SO DEARLY..!



ONE LAST PRAYER, CHILD. ONE LAST WHIMPER AT THE SANDBOX GRAVE.



ONE LAST SOB, AND YOU ARE OFF, PUSHING YOUR WAY PAST THE SWING SET WHICH NOW DISPLAYS A GRISLY NEW ADDITION...THE GENTLY SWAYING BODY OF HENRY LIEDERMAN.

NOW IT BEGINS CHILD...YOUR JOURNEY INTO A WORLD YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!



AFTER **NORA** AND **TIMOTHY** PASSED ON, THE OLD **FOLEY PLACE** BECAME MORE LIKE A **TOMB** THAN A HOME.

NORA AND **TIMOTHY** WERE THE **LAST** OF **FOLEYS**... ONCE A PROUD FAMILY THAT OWNED MOST OF **FOLEYVILLE!**

SOME FOLK STILL CLAIM THAT OLD **NORA** HAD A **FORTUNE** HID AWAY WHEN SHE DIED. THEY SAY IT'S HIDDEN RIGHT THERE IN THE OLD MANSION **SOMEWHERE!**

MORE THAN ONE FORTUNE HUNTER'S GONE LOOKING FOR THAT **TREASURE...** AND MORE THAN ONE HAS MET HIS **DOOM** IN THE SEARCH.

Y'SEE, THEY ALSO SAY THAT THE OLD **FOLEY MANSION** IS **HAUNTED**, NOW THAT **NORA** AND **TIMOTHY** ARE GONE. IT'S SAID THAT A MONSTROUS, ROTTING, SMELLY **GHOST-THING** PROTECTS THE OLD **FOLEY PLACE** FOLKS 'ROUND HERE JUST CALL 'EM...

IT!

HURRY IT UP! **BREAK** IN THAT DOOR BEFORE SOMEBODY SEES US.

AIN'T **NOBODY** GONNA SPOT US WAY OUT HERE, **GRAAK!**

GRAAK AND HIS BUDDIES WERE **MEAN** ONES... REAL **NASTY TYPES**, AND THAT GIRL WHO HUNG OUT WITH THEM WAS NO BETTER. WHEN THEY WANTED SOMETHING, THEY **TOOK** IT. THEY DIDN'T GIVE A HANG **WHO** IT BELONGED TO!

AND WHEN THEY GOT IT IN THEIR MIND TO **RANSACK** THE **FOLEY PLACE** IN SEARCH OF THAT **TREASURE**... WELL, THERE AIN'T NOthin' THAT COULDA' STOPPED THEM...

BUT WHEN THEY **SMASHED** THE ROTTING DOOR TO THAT OLD PLACE, IT SET OFF A **SILENT ALARM** THAT ONLY THE **DEAD** COULD HEAR...

ALRIGHT START LOOKING! LET OUT A YELL IF YOU FIND **ANYTHING!**

TM...
TIMOTHY...
MY SON...

NORA FOLEY
1889-1995

RIP

THE MORTAL
REMANENCE OF
TIMOTHY
FOLEY



THE TERROR OF FOLEY MANSION!

HEAR ME, TIMOTHY... EVIL
INVADES OUR HOME... **WICKED**
ONES WON'T LET THE OLD
PLACE REST IN PEACE...



THE VOICE **MOANED** LIKE A
SOFT WIND... REACHING INTO
THE GRAVE OF THE IMBECILE,
TIMOTHY... INTO HIS **ROTTING**
MIND! AND **UNDERSTANDING**
FILTERED IN...



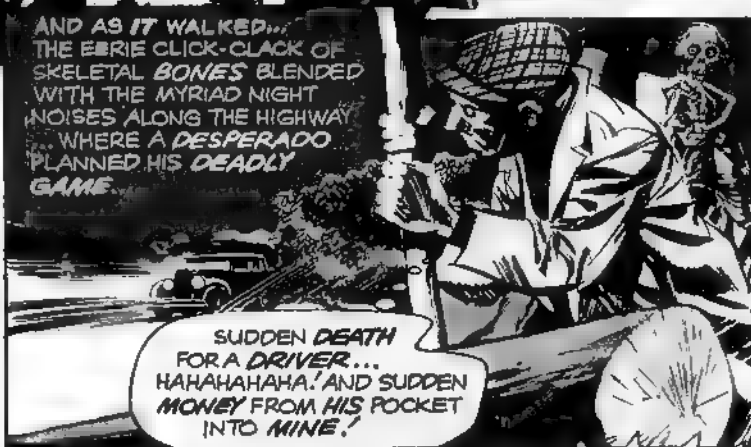
THIS SIGHTLESS THING, WITH **GRAY**
MORSELS OF PUTREFIED FLESH
DROPPING FROM **YELLOWED BONES**,
STUMBLING STIFFLY, SMELLING NOT ITS
OWN MALODOROUS **DECAY**, NOR THE
AGONY OF **DEATH** LONG PAST..!



IT **SHUFFLED** FROM THE GRIM DANK
GRAVEYARD, OBEYING A VOICE IT **TRUSTED**
IN **LIFE**...



AND AS IT WALKED...
THE **EBBIE** CLICK-CLACK OF
SKELETAL **BONES** BLENDED
WITH THE MYRIAD NIGHT
NOISES ALONG THE HIGHWAY
... WHERE A **DESPERADO**
PLANNED HIS **DEADLY**
GAME...



SUDDEN DEATH
FOR A **DRIVER**...
HAHAHAHAHA! AND **SUDDEN**
MONEY FROM HIS **POCKET**
INTO **MINE!**

BUT THE
BEST LAID
PLANS OF
HIGHWAY
ROBBERS...



EEYAGHH!
A... A
MONSTER...



LOOK OUT!

THE DRUNKEN LUNATIC RAN RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CAR!



AYEEYAAA!

I...IT'S THE FOLEY MONSTER... AGAIN...!



...BRINGING DEATH TO GOOD AND EVIL ALIKE...AN IDIOT MIND ABSORBING, DIGESTING, CARRYING OUT A COMMAND WHISPERED ON A CHILL NIGHT WIND...



BUT THERE WAS NO HEART IN IT TO FEEL A GLADNESS AT BEING HOME...IT'S HEART WAS AS DECAYED AS THAT GRUESOME BODY RETURNED FROM THE GRAVE...

BADGER ME ONCE MORE TONIGHT, AND I'LL END YOUR COMPLAINING FOR GOOD!

LET THEM LOOK FOR THE TREASURE, LOVER! WE CAN FIND OTHER THINGS TO DO!



ALRIGHT, GRAAK! WHERE IS THIS TREASURE YOU LURED US HERE FOR?

I TOLD YOU, ARNIE... I SAW THE BOX HIDDEN HERE WHEN I WAS A CHILD! I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE IT WAS!



G-GRAAK... MY G-GOOD... LOOOK!

RUTH NELSON SEEMED TO SHRIVEL INTO HERSELF WITH **FRIGHT** AS THE HORRIFYING **IT** LUMBERED INTO THE DECAYING DRAWING ROOM... WITH ITS GHOSTS OF HAPPIER PEOPLE, IN BETTER DAYS, WATCHING UNEASILY THIS MEETING OF **MONSTROSITIES**...

G-GRAAK... DON'T LET THAT THING NEAR ME! GET ME OUT OF HERE!



SHE GAGGED AS THE OVERWHELMING **GRAVE-STENCH** PERVADED THE BIG ROOM. GRAAK TURNED TO **MEET** THE INTRUDER'S CHALLENGE...



BUT **IT**'S VACANT EYESOCKETS SAW **NO** CHALLENGE. **IT** WAS **DEAF** TO THE VOICES OF THE **LIVING**. A MYSTERIOUS INERTIA DREW IT TOWARD THE PAIR YET CARRYING ON THIS **TREASURE HUNT**...

IT RELENTLESSLY CLIMBED THE CIRCULAR STAIRWAY THAT HUGGED THE WALL OF FOLEY MANSION'S CENTER HALL...



RUTH? GRAAK? WHO'S THAT COMING UP HERE?



SPEAK UP OUT THERE, OR I'LL BRAIN YOU!



THE HIDEOUS THING... **IT**... CAME AT THEM WITH DELIBERATE, JARRING STEPS... IT'S MAGGOT-RIDDEN REMAINS EXUDING **DEATH**. THEY **FROZE** UNTIL **DESPERATION** OVERCAME THEIR **SHOCK**...

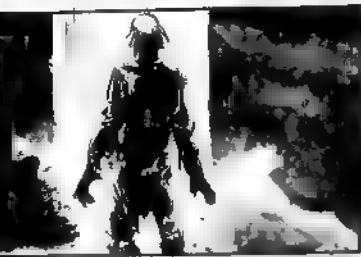
CRAAASH!

ARNIE... **HELP ME!** DON'T LEAVE ME!

BUD, IF YOU DIE, YOU'RE GONNA DIE ALONE!



ONE **GORY DEATH!** **IT** TURNED, FEELING NO REMORSE, NO PITY... NOT EVEN TRIUMPH. **NOTHING.** SENSING ONLY THAT THE MISSION WAS NOT **COMPLETE**...





DID YOU **SEE** IT... THAT WALKING DEAD-THING?

WE SAW! I CHALLENGED IT... BUT IT STEERED CLEAR OF ME. THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR!

IT COULD FRIGHTEN YOU TO DEATH!



NOTHING TO FEAR? YOU'VE GOT WEAPONS TO FIGHT IT WITH... A GUN... A KNIFE! BUT I DON'T THINK BULLETS WILL STOP THAT... THAT MONSTER!

ALL RIGHT, RUN, YOU COWARD!



MAYBE ARNIE IS RIGHT. MAYBE THAT TREASURE'S NOT EVEN HERE! MAYBE IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK!

IT'S HERE! I KNOW IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS WRETCHED MANSION!



AND BY GOD, I WON'T LEAVE HERE UNTIL I FIND IT... OR THAT MONSTER KILLS ME IN THE PROCESS!



YAAAGH!

I... I CAN'T TAKE IT! ALL THAT BLOOD! POOR BUD... H... HE'S DEAD! DEAD!



BUD... OUT THERE.. ON THE GROUND! T... THAT CHOKER'S THING MURDERED HIM!!

THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S DEAD, ARNIE! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM!

NOW HELP ME FIND WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR, AND I'LL PROTECT YOU!

IT *KNEW*... SOMEHOW *IT* *KNEW*... THAT THE SOLEMN ERRAND THE VOICE ON THE SOFT NIGHT WIND HAD SENT HIM ON MUST BE COMPLETED...



... THE SHELTER *IT* ONCE SHARED WITH A LOVING MOTHER MUST BE PROTECTED. ALL THAT WAS IN IT MUST NOT BE DISTURBED...



GRAAAAAK!
IT'S HERE
AGAIN!

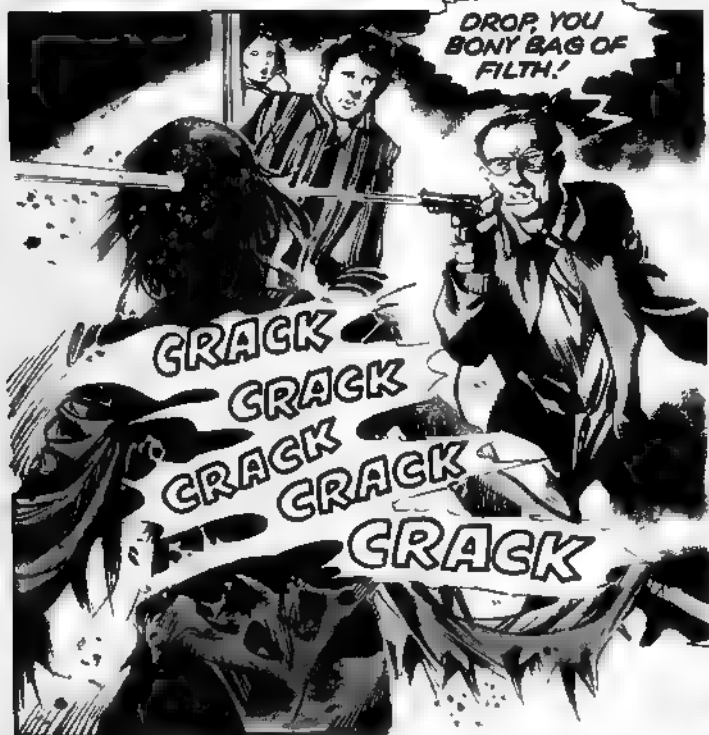
I AIN'T GOING TO
DIE LIKE BUD DID! I'LL
BLAST HELL OUT OF
THAT STINKING MESS OF
WORM-EATEN FLESH!

GIMME
YOUR GLIN!



DROP YOU
BONY BAG OF
FILTH!

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK



GRAPPLING SIGHTLESSLY FOR A DEATH HOLD ON ARNIE DAVIS, THE COLD BONY FINGERS OF THE GRAVE-THING FOUND THE SCREAMING THUG'S EYES...

YAAAAA!
MY EYES!

IT POKED
OUT MY EYES!
I'M BLIND!



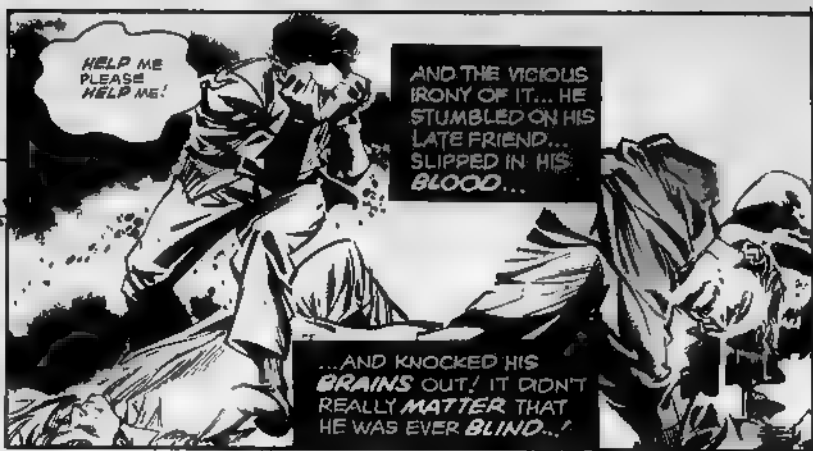
THE SHRIEKING VICTIM
STUMBLER AROUND, BLOOD
POURING FROM **EMPTY**
SOCKETS IN HIS HEAD...

FOR GOD'S SAKE
WON'T SOMEBODY
HELP ME?!!



HELP ME
PLEASE
HELP ME!

AND THE VICIOUS
IRONY OF IT... HE
STUMBLER ON HIS
LATE FRIEND...
SLIPPED IN HIS
BLOOD...



...AND KNOCKED HIS
BRAINS OUT! IT DIDN'T
REALLY **MATTER** THAT
HE WAS EVER **BLIND**...

BUT THE DEADLY MISSION
WAS **NOT OVER**! IT
LURCHED TOWARD RUTH
NELSON... COMING
BETWEEN THE FRANTIC,
HYSTERICAL YOUNG
WOMAN AND **GRAAK**...

GRAAK! STOP
HIM! KILL HIM!

I...I CAN'T! IT CAN'T
BE KILLED! I...IT'S
GOING TO GET TO
YOU, RUTH!

NOOO! I CAN'T
LET HER DIE LIKE THIS
I CAN'T!



THEN, WITH LIGHTNING SUDDENNESS,
GRAAK WHIRLED ON HIS GIRLFRIEND
AND **EMPTIED HIS GUN** INTO HER...

EEEEEEAGH!



KBLAM
BLAM
POW
BAM



THE MIGHTY GRAAK COULD NOT STAND TO
SEE RUTH SQUIRM... SUFFER AT THE HANDS
OF A LOATHSOME ROTTING **FREAK**...!
AND KNOWING HE COULD NOT KILL THE
WALKING CORPSE... HE ENDED RUTH'S HORROR
AS QUICKLY AND EXPEDIENTLY AS HE COULD...

AND THEN THE WORM-SUCKED, TERMITE-RIDDEN FLOOR **GAVE WAY!** RUTH NELSON WAS **DEAD** BEFORE SHE CRASHED **TROUGH** TO THE ROTTEN TRASH-CLUTTERED DAMP CELLAR FLOOR...



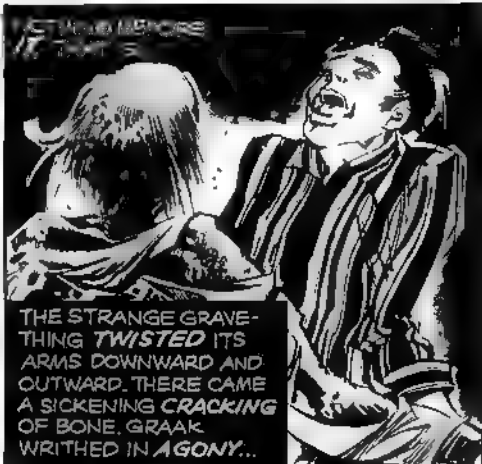
A COLD CLAMMY FEAR GRIPPED GRAAK'S BELLY! BUT **HATRED** FOR THE **THING** THAT CAUSED HIM TO KILL HIS MATE MADE HIM **FACE** THIS FRIGHTFUL AND DANGEROUS CREATURE...

NOTHING ALIVE HAS EVER BESTED ME IN A FIGHT... NOR WILL YOU!



IT KNEW NO FEAR AS SOME INNER SENSOR TURNED HIM IN GRAAK'S DIRECTION...

NOTHING HAS EVER BIPPED MY STRANGLE HOLD!



THE STRANGE GRAVE-THING **TWISTED** ITS ARMS DOWNWARD AND OUTWARD. THERE CAME A SICKENING **CRACKING** OF BONE. GRAAK WRITHED IN A GONY...

...THEN A DESPERATE GRAAK THRASHED WILDLY ABOUT! BUT **NOTHING**... **ABSOLUTELY NOTHING** COULD LOOSEN **ITS** STRANGLEHOLD...

GRAAK COULD NOT ACCEPT **DEATH** OR **DEFEAT** AT THE HANDS OF ANOTHER. **GRACEFULLY**, AND LIKE A CORNERED CREATURE, GRAAK TOOK HIS OWN **LIFE!**

GLG.LGLG.LAAAGH



IT MADE ITS RELENTLESS WAY BACK TO THE CEMETERY, TAKING NO PLEASURE IN WHAT IT HAS DONE... KNOWING ONLY THAT THE VOICE OF ONE WHO HAD LOVED HIM WAS **OBEYED...**



SO IT WAS AN **END**. AND IT WAS A **BEGINNING**. THE GRAVE THING THAT HAD ONCE BEEN **NORA FOLEY** HAD A PURPOSE IN SENDING **IT** TO PROTECT THE MANSION.

THERE WAS A GRANDNIECE ... HER ONLY **HEIR**, AS ONLY THE **DEAD** CAN KNOW, **NORA** KNEW **JAN FOLEY** WAS ON HER WAY TO **FOLEYVILLE**. SHE ARRIVED THE NEXT DAY...

IT WOULD COST A FORTUNE TO **FIX UP** MISS **FOLEY**. I HAVE SOME SMALLER HOUSES LISTED...

IF I DON'T TAKE **AUNT NORA'S** HOME, THEN I GET NONE OF THE **MONEY** SHE WILLED ME! AND THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO PUT THIS BIG OLD PLACE IN GOOD SHAPE, **MR. RYAN**...



IT SMELLS **AWFUL** IN HERE... LIKE SOMETHING **DEAD**!

UH...ER... **RATS**, I GUESS!

SINCE YOU'RE **FORCED** TO LIVE HERE, I'D BETTER HAVE THE PLACE **CLEANED OUT**...



OF COURSE, THEY FOUND FOUR **BODIES**. THERE WAS SOME COMMOTION FOR AWHILE! BUT THE OLD MANSION WAS FINALLY **RENOVATED**, AND **JAN FOLEY** MOVED IN.

THE **TREASURE**? THAT WAS **NEVER FOUND**. NOT YET! **SOME DAY**, PERHAPS...

THERE WAS A **RESTLESSNESS** IN THE **FOLEYVILLE CEMETERY**. NOW AND THEN **IT** CRAWLED FROM THE GRAVE WHERE **TIM FOLEY** HAD BEEN LAID TO REST. THEY SAY **EVIL** HUNG OVER THAT **BURIAL GROUND**...



BUT TO THEM'S IN THE **KNOW**... THERE WAS A LOT MORE **LOVE** THAN WICKEDNESS OUT THERE...!

Prologue: London, 1887.

FOG GLIDED GENTLY ALONG THE INDIGENT, DEBRIS-LINED STREETS... FOOTSTEPS ECHOED HOLLOWLY OVER THE COBBLESTONES. AND THE PALE GASLIGHT REVEALED THINGS THAT BY DAY SEEMED DULL AND COMMONPLACE... BUT TONIGHT HINTED OF *PASSIONS* AND *DEEDS* THAT, PERHAPS, WERE BEST HIDDEN.



MY GOD, MAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

FOR A MAN OF YOUR WEALTH, SIR ROBERT, YOU ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ASTUTE. ISN'T IT OBVIOUS...?

SS7
SMMAASSHH!



SPARE A MATCH, SIR?

WHAT? OH, I'M SORRY, YOU STARTLED ME. YES, I BELIEVE I HAVE ONE...



... I AM COMMITTING THE SIMPLE ACT OF MURDER!

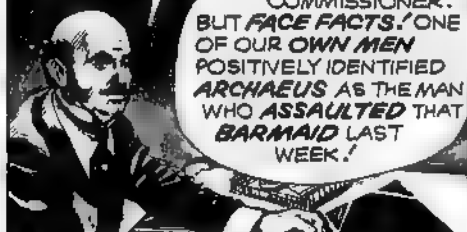
A SWITCH IN TIME...

COMMISSIONER RICHARD SUTHERLAND WAS A **RIGID, OBSTINATE** MAN WHOSE **EGO** FAR EXCEEDED HIS **ABILITIES**. HE ACKNOWLEDGED **CLEVERNESS** AND **IMAGINATION** ONLY WHEN THEY CAME FROM **HIMSELF**, AND **RESENTED** SUCH ERUDITE DISPLAYS WHEN THEY CAME FROM HIS **SUBORDINATES**. MOST OF ALL HE **RESENTED MILES SANFORD**.



THIS IS THE MOST **PREPOSTEROUS** THEORY I'VE EVER HEARD! **ALISTAIR ARCHAEOUS IS DEAD**. I ATTENDED THE **EXECUTION MYSELF**!

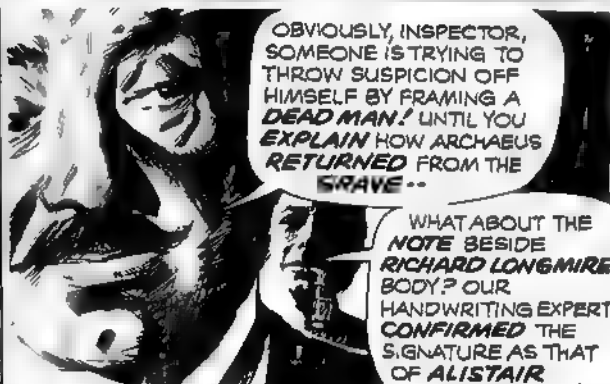
SO DID I, COMMISSIONER. BUT **FACE FACTS**. ONE OF OUR OWN **MEN** POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED **ARCHAEUS** AS THE MAN WHO **ASSAULTED** THAT **BARMAID** LAST WEEK!



YOU DON'T **UNDERSTAND** THE KIND OF **MAN** WE'RE DEALING WITH, COMMISSIONER. **ARCHAEUS IS MAD**, BUT HE'S A **COLD, CUNNING GENIUS**. HE NOT ONLY WANTS **REVENGE** ON THOSE **TWELVE JURORS**, BUT WANTS TO MAKE **FOOLS OF US** AS WELL!

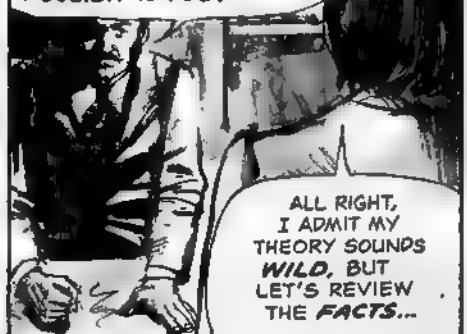


OBVIOUSLY, INSPECTOR, SOMEONE IS TRYING TO THROW SUSPICION OFF HIMSELF BY FRAMING A **DEAD MAN**! UNTIL YOU **EXPLAIN** HOW **ARCHAEUS** RETURNED FROM THE **GRAVE**--



WHAT ABOUT THE **NOTE** BESIDE **RICHARD LONGMIRE'S** BODY? OUR **HANDWRITING EXPERTS** **CONFIRMED** THE **SIGNATURE** AS THAT OF **ALISTAIR ARCHAEOUS**!

YOUR EVIDENCE IS PURELY **CIRCUMSTANTIAL**, INSPECTOR. I DARESAY, THE ONLY ONE LIKELY TO MAKE **SCOTLAND YARD** LOOK **FOOLISH** IS YOU!



ALL RIGHT, I ADMIT MY THEORY SOUNDS **WILD**, BUT LET'S REVIEW THE **FACTS**...

"ON DECEMBER 26 OF LAST YEAR, SIR ARTHUR HOLMES WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY HIS OWN HOUSEGUESTS DURING A **PARTRIDGE** HUNT. WHY? BECAUSE **SOMEONE** HAD PROPPED UP HIS UNCONSCIOUS BODY INSIDE A HEDGE LACED WITH **STUFFED PARTRIDGES**." SIR ARTHUR JUST HAPPENED TO BE **FOREMAN** OF THE **JURY** THAT CONVICTED **ARCHAEOLOGIST** NAYLAND NEVINS.



"THREE DAYS LATER, **ARCHAEOLOGIST** NAYLAND NEVINS DISCOVERED THE FAMED **GOLDEN DOVE OF BELTANE**, ONLY TO HAVE IT **BLOW UP** IN HIS FACE. WE DISCOVERED LATER THAT A **FORGED** STATUETTE CONTAINING A **TIME BOMB** HAD BEEN **SUBSTITUTED** FOR THE **ORIGINAL**. NEVINS, TOO, WAS A **MEMBER** OF THAT **JURY**."



"FINALLY, **RICHARD LONGMIRE**, ANOTHER **JURY** MEMBER, DIED **WRITHING** IN AGONY WHEN HE WAS SENT **THREE FRENCH HENNAS** CONTAINING A DEADLY **CHOLERA** STRAIN. DON'T YOU BEGIN TO SEE THE **PATTERN**?"



THE FIRST MURDER OCCURS ON DECEMBER 26, **THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS!**

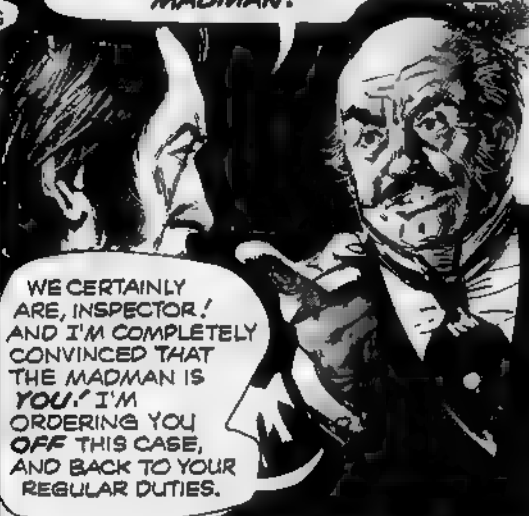
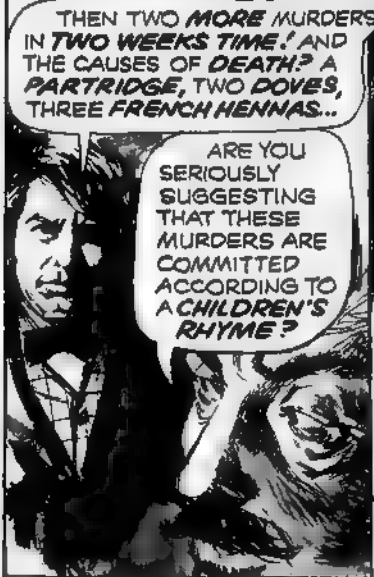
WHY **NOT**? **TWELVE JURORS... TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS!** DAMN IT, COMMISSIONER WE'RE DEALING WITH A **MADMAN!**

THEN TWO MORE MURDERS IN **TWO WEEKS TIME!** AND THE CAUSES OF DEATH? A **PARTRIDGE**, TWO **DOVES**, THREE **FRENCH HENNAS**...

ARE YOU SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT THESE MURDERS ARE COMMITTED ACCORDING TO A **CHILDREN'S RHYME**?

WE CERTAINLY ARE, INSPECTOR! AND I'M COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT THE **MADMAN** IS **YOU**. I'M ORDERING YOU **OFF** THIS CASE, AND BACK TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES.

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU **FEEL**, COMMISSIONER, YOU CAN EXPECT MY **RESIGNATION** IN THE MORNING.



SOMEWHERE IN THE DISTANCE, A CLOCK TOLLED 3 A.M. LONDON HAD GROWN **SILENT AND LONELY**. BUT ALISTAIR ARCHAEOUS WAS **INSENSITIVE** TO ITS WHIMS, AS HE GRIMLY DRAGGED HIS BURLAP BURDEN UP THE NARROW STAIRCASE.

SIR ROBERT'S **DISAPPEARANCE** WILL **PUZZLE** SCOTLAND YARD FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT I **DOUBT** THEY WILL TRACE IT BACK TO **ME**.

AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO **DIRECT CONNECTION** BETWEEN SIR ROBERT AND I. WE HAD NEVER EVEN **MET!** HE WAS JUST **UNFORTUNATE** ENOUGH TO INHERIT HIS FATHER'S **NAME**.

ARCHAEUS STARED FOR A LONG MOMENT AT THE INANIMATE FORM OF SIR ROBERT CAWLING-BYRD IV. HE FELT **PITY... PITY** THAT A MAN SO **YOUNG AND VITAL** HAD **DIED** IGNORANT OF THE **FUNCTION** HIS DEATH WOULD SOON SERVE, AND WHEN ARCHAEOUS HAD **FINISHED** PITTING HIM, HE SET ABOUT HIS **WORK** ONCE MORE.

YOU, SIR ROBERT, WERE MERELY THE **MEANS** TO AN **END**. YOU WERE **DOOMED** BECAUSE I NEEDED YOUR **IDENTITY**. NOT FOR **MYSELF**, MIND YOU! BUT A **PLIABLE MASK** OF YOUR **FACIAL FEATURES** IS NECESSARY TO MY **PLANS!**

TWENTY-ONE HOURS LATER, IN THE LONDON FLAT OF INSPECTOR **MILES SANFORD...**

WHY DID YOU **DO IT**, MILES? THAT CASE HAS BEEN TROUBLING YOU FOR **WEEKS**. I SHOULD THINK YOU'D BE **GLAD** TO GET **RID** OF IT!

NOT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES! **PRIDE** MAY BE A **SHORTCOMING**, BUT IT'S THE **ONE THING** THAT'S KEPT ME **GOING** ALL THESE YEARS.

NOW A **POMPOUS POLICE COMMISSIONER** AND A **HOMICIDAL MANIAC** ARE STRIPPING AWAY EVERYTHING I **BUILT**.

BUT WHAT DID YOU PROVE BY **RESIGNING**?

I **KNOW** THE KIND OF MAN

ARCHAEUS IS! THERE IS SOME **INTELLECTUAL BOND** BETWEEN US... LIKE **OPONENTS** IN A **CHESS GAME**. I'M THE **ONLY ONE** WHO CAN **STOP** HIM.

SO YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ON **ARCHAEUS** BY YOURSELF?

I **HAVE** TO.

SUTHERLAND'S AFRAID MY THEORY WILL LEAK TO THE **PUBLIC** AND TARNISH THE **YARD'S REPUTATION!** HE'S **RESTRICTED** EVERY MOVE I'VE TRIED TO **MAKE**. NOW HE WANTS ME OFF THE CASE **ALTOGETHER**.

BUT WITH OR WITHOUT THE YARD'S SANCTION, I'M GOING TO **NAIL ARCHAEUS...!**

SSSSSHHHH! IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF **EXCITED**, LET'S PUT IT TO SOMETHING MORE **CONSTRUCTIVE!**

MORGAN GRENVILLE WAS PLEASED WITH HIMSELF. FOR TWO HOURS, HE HAD FEIGNED INTEREST IN *LA TRAVIATA*, WHILE SURREPTITIOUSLY STARING DOWN THE ELEGANT DRESS OF HIS COMPANION. NOW THERE WAS MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

THE SINGING WAS OKAY, BUT I COULDN'T FOLLOW THE STORY. MAYBE IF I KNEW MORE ITALIAN...



THEY WALKED ON! GRENVILLE WAS THE PERFECT GENTLEMAN. CALM, CONTROLLED, PLEASANT. NO ONE CARED THAT HE WAS ALSO THE PERFECT HYPOCRITE.

SUDDENLY...

GOOD EVENING, MR. GRENVILLE. AND TO YOU, MY DEAR. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF MORGAN AND I REMINISCCE ABOUT OLD TIMES...



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I DON'T KNOW YOU..!

DON'T YOU, MR. GRENVILLE? TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

ARCHAEUS! IMPOSSIBLE! YOU WERE SENT TO THE GALLOWS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?



THERE WILL BE TIME TO DISCUSS THAT LATER. YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, YOUNG LADY. MR. GRENVILLE WILL MERELY SLEEP FOR AWHILE.

IF YOU AIN'T GOT A MIND TO HURTIN' ME, MISTER, I CAN GIVE YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT...

HISSSS

WOMAN, THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I WANT FROM YOU...

...YOUR LIFE!





NOW, MORBAN GRENVILLE, FOR HAVING THE **AUDACITY** TO SENTENCE ME TO **DEATH**, YOU SHALL SUFFER THE MOST **EXQUISITE** OF **TORTURES**.

AS FOR SIR ROBERT, I NO LONGER HAVE **NEED** OF HIM, SO I SHALL DEPOSIT HIS BODY WHERE THE POLICE ARE **SURE** TO FIND IT.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

MILES, COMMISSIONER SUTHERLAND CALLED THIS MORNING. HE WANTS YOU TO **RECONSIDER**. THERE WERE **TWO MORE MURDERS** LAST NIGHT

TWO? MEMBERS OF **ARCHAEUS' JURY**?

NO. ONE WAS A STREET GIRL FROM THE WEST END. THE OTHER WAS SIR ROBERT CAWLING-BYRD IV, SON OF THE FAMOUS **INDUSTRIALIST**. THEY FOUND HIS BODY IN AN **ALLEY** THIS MORNING.

'THE FOURTH CAWLING-BYRD.' IT HAS TO BE MORE THAN **COINCIDENCE.** BUT **HOW?** SIR ROBERT HAD **NOTHING** TO DO WITH **ARCHAEUS' TRIAL.**

SOON, AT THE SCOTLAND YARD HEADQUARTERS OF CAPTAIN JAMES MORGANSON...

MILES, I HEARD ABOUT YOUR **RESIGNATION**. HAD A CHANGE OF **HEART?**

NOT A CHANCE, JIM. I NEED SOME **INFORMATION** ON SIR ROBERT CAWLING-BYRD IV, THE MAN WHO TURNED UP IN THE **MORGUE** TODAY.

SUTHERLAND WOULD HAVE MY RUMP ON A **SILVER PLATTER** IF HE KNEW I WAS **HELPING YOU.**

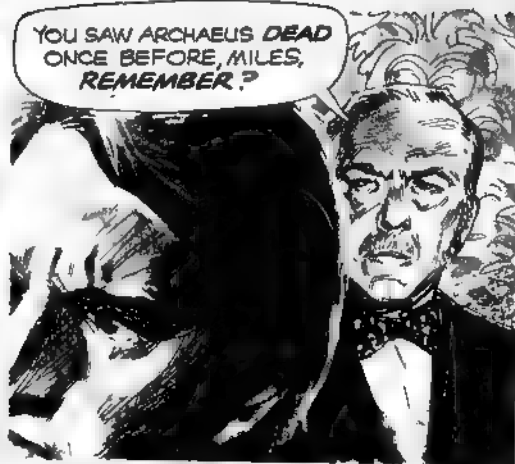
THEY FOUND CAWLING-BYRD THIS MORNING. HIS **THROAT** HAD BEEN **SLASHED.** PROBABLY BY A **GLASS BOTTLE.**



WHEN'S THE **FUNERAL**?

TOMORROW AFTERNOON. IF YOU THINK ARCHAEUS MAY TRY SOMETHING **THERE**, I'LL SEND A COUPLE OF EXTRA MEN. **OFF THE RECORD**, OF COURSE.

NO THANKS, JIM. UNTIL I SEE THAT **UGLY MANIAC** IN HIS **GRAVE**, I PREFER TO HANDLE THIS **SOLO**.



YOU SAW ARCHAEUS **DEAD** ONCE BEFORE, MILES, **REMEMBER?**



AT THAT MOMENT, ALISTAIR ARCHAEUS MADE THE FINAL **PREPARATIONS** FOR HIS FORTHCOMING **CHARADE**...

THIS WON'T HURT A BIT, MR. GRENVILLE. WHEN YOU AWAKEN, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE A **NEW MAN**.



PERFECT. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO **DISTINGUISH** YOU FROM THE **REAL SIR ROBERT**.



NOW ONLY ONE THING **REMAINS**... TO CONSTRUCT A **FIRE BOMB** WHICH WILL ADD CONSIDERABLE **LIFE** TO SIR ROBERT'S **FUNERAL**!

THE FUNERAL OF SIR ROBERT CAWLING-BYRD IV WAS A **MODEST** ONE. THE **PREACHER**, EAGER TO GET OUT OF THE DRIZZLING RAIN, MUMBLED HIS WAY THROUGH THE **EULOGY**, WHILE THE **MOURNERS** NODDED DUTIFULLY AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

JAMAICA, YOU'RE **CRYING**...

EVERY MAN NO MATTER **WHO** HE IS, DESERVES TO HAVE AT LEAST **ONE** TEAR SHED FOR HIM.

BUT AS THEY RUSH TO INVESTIGATE...

HOW **TOUCHING**! IT SEEMS A SHAME TO **INTERRUPT** SUCH A LOVELY CEREMONY, BUT THE **FIRE BOMB** I SET SHOULD GO OFF RIGHT ABOUT...

...NOW!

KA-BOOOOOOWWW!

AN **EXPLOSION!** FROM BEHIND THAT **CRYPT!**

TEN TO ONE THAT'S WHERE WE FIND **ARCHAEUS!** LET'S GO!

THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OCCUPIED FOR AT LEAST **FIVE MINUTES!** PLENTY OF TIME FOR ME TO MAKE A SIMPLE **SUBSTITUTION!**

WHEN YOU **AWAKEN**, IT WILL BE IN A **CLOSED CASKET**, SIX FEET **UNDER!**

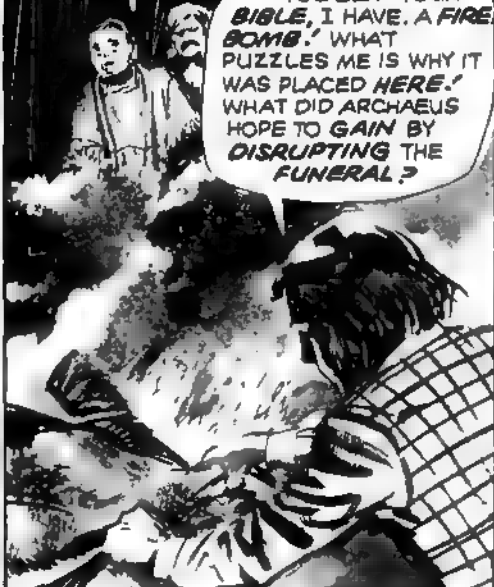
MY REVENGE IS **COMPLETE!**
MORGAN GRENVILLE WILL BE
BURIED ALIVE, IN THE GRAVE
THAT WAS MEANT FOR SIR
ROBERT! AND THESE FOOLS WILL
NEVER SUSPECT THAT THEY
BURIED THE WRONG MAN!



MEANWHILE... **THANK HEAVEN**

YOU'VE
SMOTHERED THE FIRE!
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT
COULD HAVE **CAUSED** IT?

YOU **BET** YOUR
BIBLE, I HAVE A **FIRE**
BOMB! WHAT
PUZZLES ME IS WHY IT
WAS PLACED **HERE!**
WHAT DID **ARCHAEUS**
HOPE TO **GAIN** BY
DISRUPTING THE
FUNERAL?



THEN I SUGGEST WE
CONCLUDE THE SERVICE
AND **COMMEND** THE
BODY OF OUR LATE
BROTHER TO THE
GROUND...

YEAH, I GUESS,
YOU'RE RIGHT,
REVEREND. IT'S
TIME WE **LOWERED**
THE **BODY...**

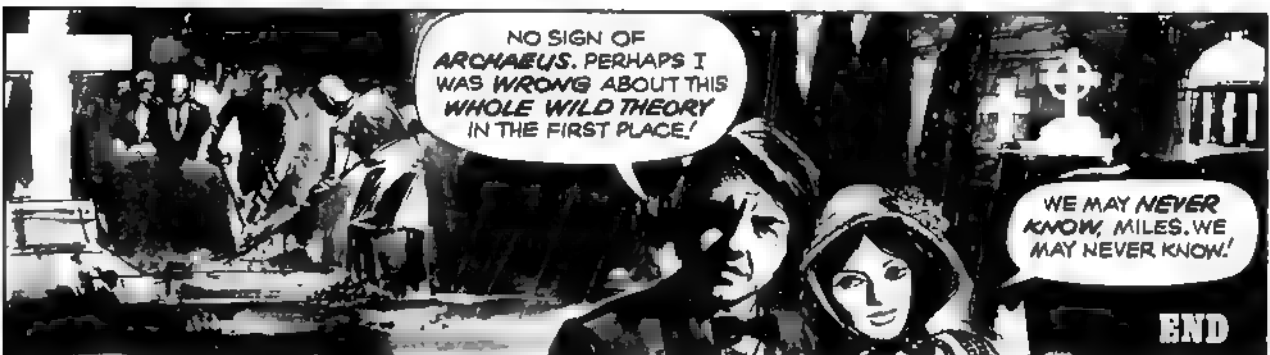


FROM DUST THOU
ART AND UNTO DUST
THOU SHALT
RETURN...



NO SIGN OF
ARCHAEUS. PERHAPS I
WAS **WRONG** ABOUT THIS
WHOLE WILD THEORY
IN THE FIRST PLACE!

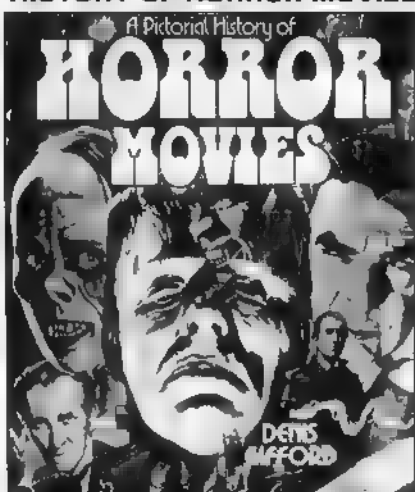
WE MAY **NEVER**
KNOW, MILES. WE
MAY **NEVER** **KNOW!**



END

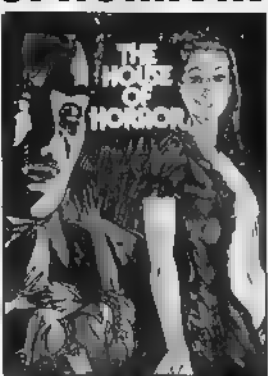
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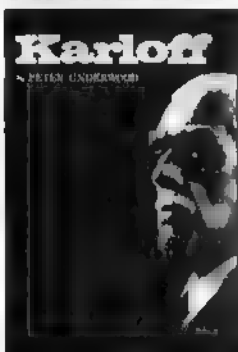
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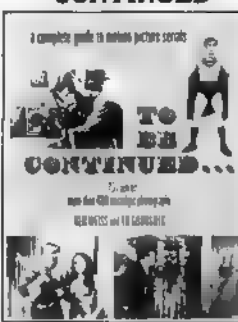
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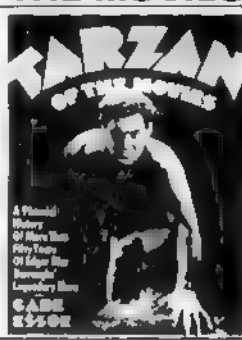
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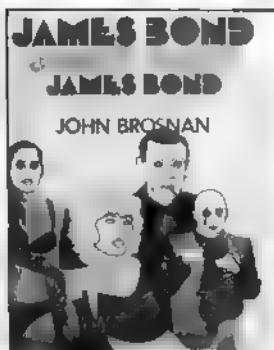
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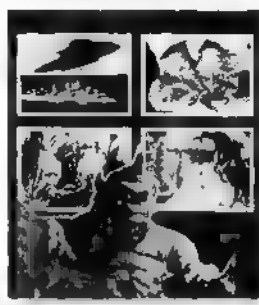


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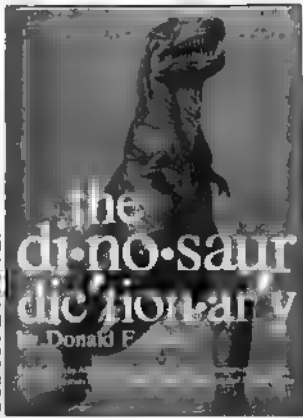
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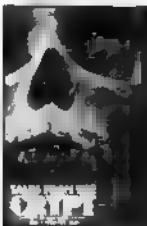
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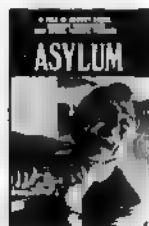
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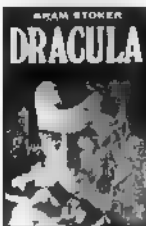
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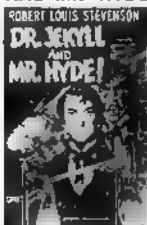
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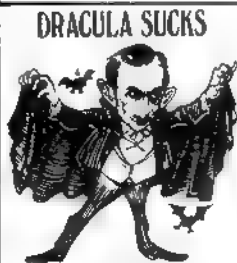
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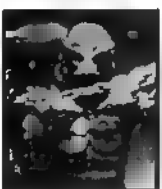
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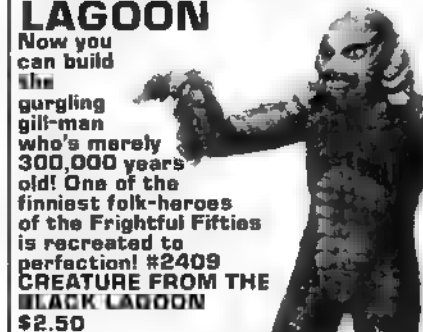
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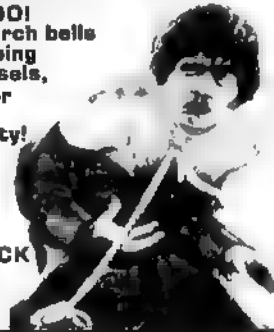
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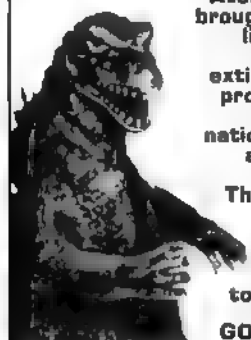
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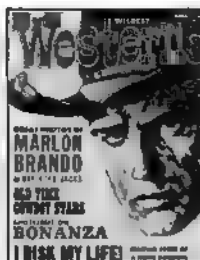
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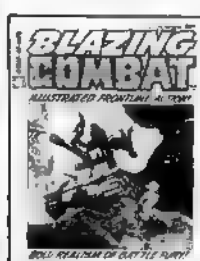
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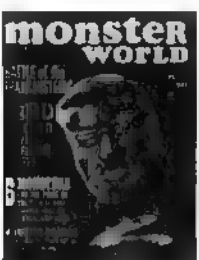
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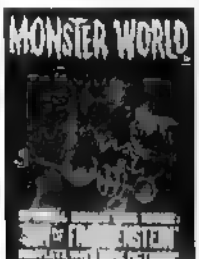
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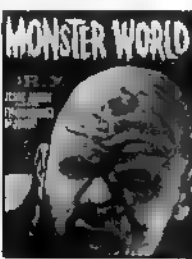
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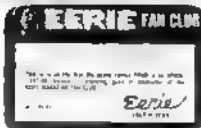
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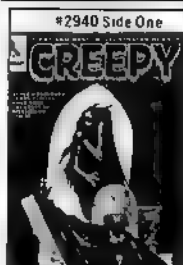
COUSIN EERIE



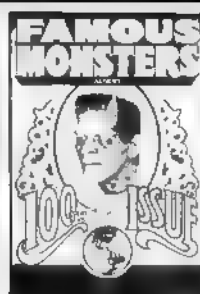
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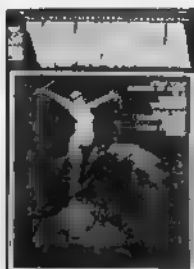
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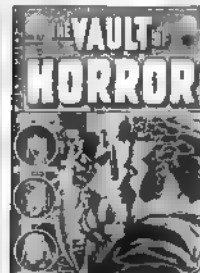
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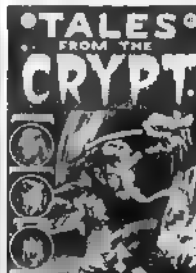
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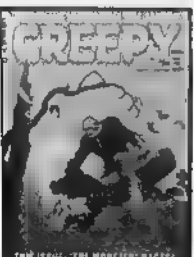
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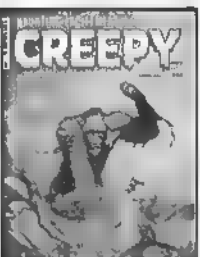
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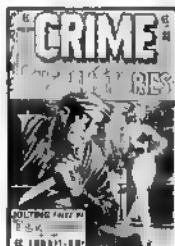
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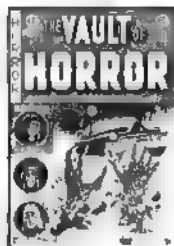
To the comics fan and appreciator of superb horror art and classic tales of terror, the letters EC strike a responsive chord. For in the annals of comic memorabilia, the work done by the staff of this organization is revered above that of most others. Way back in 1954, the entire EC line was put out of commission by the newly formed Comics Code Authority who deemed the work too horrible for public consumption. And only one EC publication—MAD Magazine—remains in print. But the magazines were not discontinued before they could showcase the work of such comic art greats as **WALLY WOOD**, **REED CRANDALL**, **FRANK FRAZETTA**, **JOHNNY CRAIG**, **JOE ORLANDO**, **JACK DAVIS**, **GEORGE EVANS**, **AL WILLIAMSON**, **HARVEY KURTZMAN**, and **WILL ELDER**. And now, through the efforts of many, EC comics are back, exactly as they appeared some twenty-odd years ago. These magnificent collector's items are in full color, feature four stories each, and are as fresh and exciting as when they first appeared in the Golden Age of comics. Nowadays, you cannot touch a mint edition of any of these original publications for under \$20.00. So why go broke just to read some of the world's great comics. Order EC reprint!



WEIRD SCIENCE #15 Wally Wood leads off with his sci-fi tale "Martians" followed by Jack Kamen's "Miscalculation," Orlando's "Bum Steer" and Al Williamson's "Captivity." Also, a biography of artist Orlando. #21038 \$1.00



CRIME SUSPENSE #25 Gripping tales of criminal terror. "Three For the Money" by Jack Kamen, "Dog Food" by Reed Crandall, plus "Key Chain" by Bernie Krugstein and "The Squealer" by artist G. Evans. #21115 \$1.00



VAULT OF HORROR #26 "Two of a Kind" by Johnny Craig, "Half Way Horrible" by Jack Kamen, Graham Ingels' "Hook, Line and Sink" and a special cover story by Jack Davis entitled "Graft in Concrete." Great! #21120 \$1.00



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HAUNT OF FEAR #12 One of EC's finest efforts. Features Ingels' "Poetic Justice" from movie "Tales From The Crypt" along with Davis' "What's Cookin'" and tales by Orlando and Craig. Plus Craig bio. #21080 \$1.00

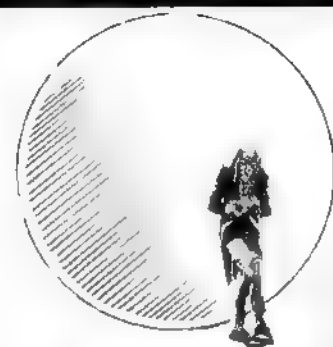


SHOCK #12 Starring "The Kidnapper" by Reed Crandall, and featuring "The Monkey" by Joe Orlando, "Fall Guy" by Wally Wood (with a climax you won't forget) and "Deadline" by Jack Kamen. #21075 \$1.00



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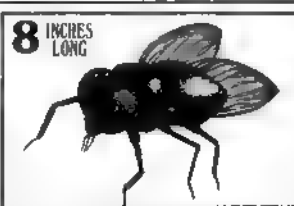


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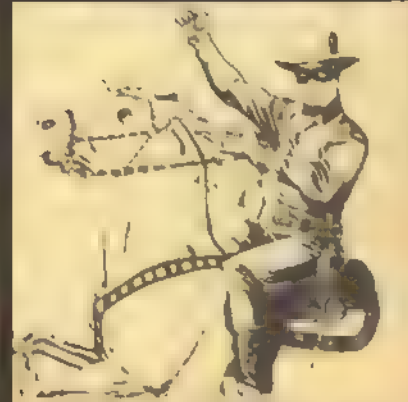
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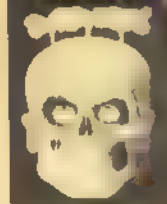


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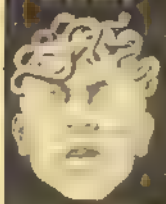
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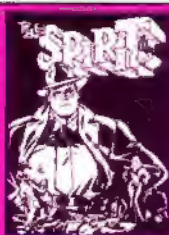
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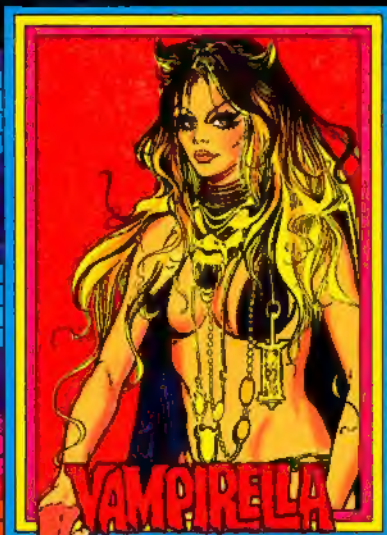
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